

Ceasefire in Gaza, PLO says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The armed wing of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction and the Israeli army have agreed to a ceasefire in the occupied Gaza Strip, a Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official told an Israeli newspaper Wednesday. "During a recent meeting in Rome, we reached a gentlemen's agreement under which the Israeli soldiers and the Fatah Hawks no longer open fire on each other," Mohammad Dahlan said in an interview with the Haaretz daily. Both parties have so far "generally respected" the agreement, according to Mr. Dahlan, a PLO security official. The Fatah Hawks announced in late November that they were going to resume the armed struggle against Israel after one of their fighters was killed by Israeli troops by mistake. Mr. Arafat had called on his followers to stop their anti-Israeli attacks after signing the autonomy deal with Israel in September. Mr. Dahlan said Israel and the PLO decided to create a "committee for coordination in the field of intelligence" although the two sides still disagree on the definition of "terrorism." Mr. Dahlan is one of the Palestinian negotiators in talks with Israel on the implementation of the autonomy accord.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Saleh ready to quit to end crisis

SANA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Wednesday he would rather resign than see his feud with Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh drag the country into civil war. In an impassioned speech, Mr. Saleh said he would even let Mr. Beedh become president if that would quell the crisis threatening the four-year-old union of North and South Yemen. "I am ready for any compromises to preserve my country and its unity and protect it from the dangerous pitfalls of civil war and separation, and what is only left is my resignation from the presidency," he said. "I am ready to present this (resignation) to... let brother Ali Salem Al Beedh of the Yemeni Socialist Party come in my place if that be the solution." Mr. Saleh spoke in the southern city of Aden, about 240 kilometres from Mr. Beedh's stronghold in Aden, the former southern capital, while on a reconciliation campaign after Mr. Beedh failed to show up for a meeting arranged by Yemeni Muslim scholars. Mr. Beedh has presented an 18-point programme of reforms. Mr. Saleh has accepted the programme in principle, but Mr. Beedh has spurred reconciliation until actual implementation starts.

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Joint panel meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee on security, land and borders held its first meeting at the Foreign Ministry Wednesday. The Jordanian side to the committee's meeting was headed by Abdullah Toukan while the Palestinian side was headed by Brigadier Fakhri Shakoura. The committee will resume its meetings Thursday.

Clinton to ask for special prosecutor

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton will ask for a special prosecutor to "clear the air" over the controversy surrounding his Whitewater land dealings, administration and congressional sources said Wednesday.

Blasts shake Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — A series of explosions shook a Gaza City neighbourhood that had been under Israeli military curfew Wednesday. But no injuries were reported. A powerful blast was followed by two others, and the army later sent bomb disposal experts to an area near the military administration complex.

Israel denies release

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israel will release 3,500 Palestinian prisoners when it reaches an agreement on launching Palestinian autonomy, Fatah claimed Wednesday. But Israeli defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami denied the report. "Israel will free 3,500 detainees when the accord is signed and will release all the rest before July 13 provided those belonging to (anti-autonomy) factions pledge to stop the armed struggle," Fatah said in a leaflet.

Israel, PLO stuck on security issues

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) moved closer Wednesday to a deal on transferring civilian powers but remained stuck on security for the Palestinian self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho. They adjourned talks until Monday, cutting them short by one day to allow the Israeli delegates to attend the funeral of General Nehemia Tamari, the West Bank army commander who was killed in a helicopter accident. (see page 10).

"There has been substantial progress and we have advanced on most of the questions," said the head of Israel's military administration in the West Bank, General Gadi Zohar.

Jamil Tarifi, a West Bank businessman heading the Palestinian side in the negotiations on a civilian hand-over, said: "We dealt with a lot of questions and made progress on most of them."

But after three days of talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba, the PLO and Israel were still divided on security. The talks were scheduled to resume in Taba on Monday.

The chief Palestinian negotiator, Nabil Shaath, was also optimistic on a civilian deal. "We have been able to move very rapidly and very positively in most of the departments that we used to have difficulty," he said.

Water, planning and zoning would be left for next week. The joint committee on civilian affairs discussed antiquities on Wednesday.

Dr. Shaath said 12 issues had already been resolved since the

latest session opened Monday at the Hilton Hotel, including electricity, telecommunications and transportation.

Twenty other issues had already been finalised in earlier rounds.

Also on Wednesday, the military committee met under the leadership of Dr. Shaath and his Israeli counterpart, General Amnon Shahak, while a drafting committee took notes of the points of agreement and dispute.

The drafting team would "look into issues that are really in between civil and security," such as Palestinian authority, its structure and responsibilities, said the PLO negotiator.

Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said little progress was evident on the issues that delayed the Israeli military withdrawal targeted for Dec. 13.

Israeli leaders have said if the talks dragged on the sides were unlikely to meet the second deadline foreseen by the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, of completing military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho region by April 13.

Dr. Shaath played down the deadlock so far on security issues. "We should deal with them as important topics, but not as tie breakers, agreement breakers," he said.

The Palestinians were "not yet satisfied" on the size of the autonomous region of Jericho. On the control of borders and crossings, another key stumbling block, "we have made progress but we are still short of a signable agreement," said Dr. Shaath.

(Continued on page 5)

Deputies continue to shower government with demands

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Demands for better and more services in various villages, cities and governorates of the Kingdom continued to dominate the Lower House of Parliament debate of the draft budget for 1994 on the second day of a marathon session that could stretch until Sunday.

While a few of the 20 deputies who took the floor Wednesday praised the JD 1.487 billion budget which the government presented to the House last month, others said it fails to adequately address the economic challenges and needs of the country.

Deputies echoed assertions made by their colleagues Tuesday that the "government missed the people" by contending that the budget is "deficit-free."

They said the budget contains a deficit of JD 460 million if grants and loans are excluded from the projected revenue.

The government also came under criticism from deputies who said the budget does not fairly distribute expenditure among the various governorates of the Kingdom despite its inclusion of separate budgets for the country's eight governorates.

Almost all deputies demanded that the government do not introduce the controversial sales tax if it is to lead to a higher cost of living. But at least one deputy said the government cannot re-

verse its decision to introduce the new tax because it is required by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"We are governed in our economic policy by the International Monetary Fund which aims at directing our economy towards serving the interests of the debtor countries," asserted leftist Deputy Mustafa Shneikat (Balqa).

Lawmakers also charged that the government had increased local revenue by introducing indirect taxes and raising the fees on government services.

Citing the budget's estimation of an 8.8 per cent increase in local revenue over that of 1992, and the projected 5.5 per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP), Ma'an Deputy Awad Khleifat said the government aims at increasing indirect taxation.

Deputies warned of the impact a higher cost of living would have on society, urging more effective measures to deal with the problems of poverty and unemployment.

They said that the percentage of poverty in the Kingdom had increased, with Deputy Rateb Soud (Tafilah) warning that widespread poverty in his southern governorate could lead to social instability and Deputy Ali Shati (Balqa) saying that thousands of people do not have the means of subsistence in the Jordan Valley.

Deputies warned against lifting subsidies from basic commodities which they said should reach the people who

need them most. The draft budget allocates JD 30 million for food subsidies, compared to JD 31 million in 1993.

Lawmakers who spoke Wednesday reiterated demands for administration reforms, modernisation of investments, banking and economic laws, support for the agricultural sector and more funds for the educational system.

Speaking on behalf of 16 deputies from the Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC), Irbid Deputy Saleh Irsheidat said the government had failed to articulate a coherent vision for the challenging era through which the region is passing.

Whether the peace process fails or succeeds, Jordan has to develop a policy that can rise up to the challenges the new era would present, he said. The government has failed to do that yet, said Mr. Irsheidat, a former minister of youth.

Mr. Irsheidat said investment laws have also failed to create an environment which can enable Jordan to compete with other countries in the region.

Criticising the budget for earmarking funds for miscellaneous spending that cannot be controlled by the legislature, Ajloun Deputy Farah Al Rabadi said these allocations are not justifiable.

He said the government used to allocate such funds in the past to "hide what it used

(Continued on page 5)

Meaningful peace must reflect on 'man in the street' — Prince Hassan

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said that peace in the Middle East cannot be fully achieved unless its benefits touched the "man on the street" and removed barriers impeding collective development of the region's economies.

In an opening speech he delivered at an economic conference organised by the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) in London, the Crown Prince said peace should be structured in a way that would deal with the "over-arching" problems of the economies of the region.

Underlining Jordan's "historic position at the crossroads of east and west," Prince Hassan said the Kingdom would be equipped to be a "window for the world on a new Middle East, one finally at peace."

But he added that this can only be achieved successfully if the "disparities and distortions created by conflict" are eliminated.

Cooperation among the Kingdom, Palestine and Israel in a "Benelux-type arrangement," the Crown Prince said, can only be achieved between partners and the "relationship that exists between Israel and the occupied territories is not one of partnership, but of begemony."

He said the Israeli occupation has "destroyed the economies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing the development and expansion of Palestinian enterprise, and



prohibiting free trade within the area."

"All the peoples of the region have suffered because of the conflict, and just as all have their part to play in the process of building and renewal, so must its fruits be distributed equitably," the Crown Prince said adding that "if one thing is clear at this point it is that peace cannot be piecemeal."

He praised the economic accord reached between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation last week and said that the scopes of cooperation to be explored between the two parties will "not be the stuff of headlines, but the stuff of which true peace is made."

He said that despite the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank, "the geographic, historic and demographic ties between Jordan and Palestine endure."

See full text of Prince Hassan's speech on page 5

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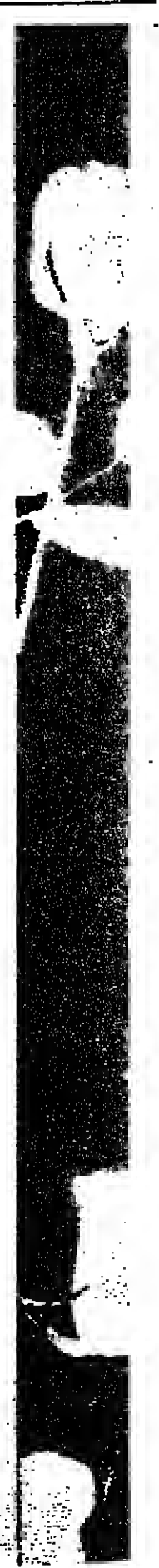
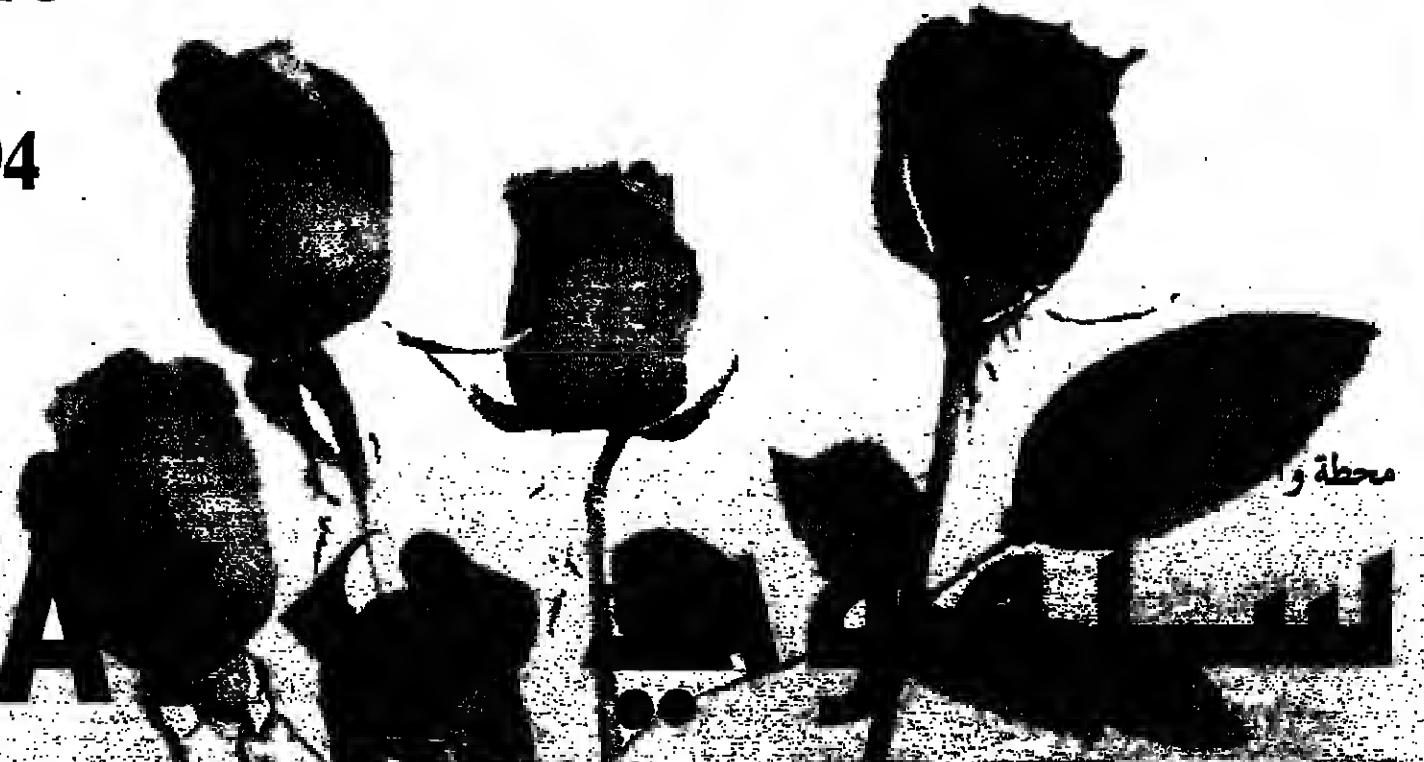
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Algeria to free desert detainees

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian authorities, in a gesture to Muslim fundamentalist opponents, are to free some Islamists held without trial in Saharan desert camps opened nearly two years ago, a senior official said.

They will also lift house arrest imposed on some militants or leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Abdul Kader Bensalah, spokesman for a top-level committee, said.

"The National Dialogue Commission (CDN) has been given certain guarantees by the competent authorities on the release in the days to come of a group of detainees in the security centres in the south of the country," Mr. Bensalah said.

The commission hopes these measures constitute an important turning point on the way to a progressive return of tranquility and civil peace in the country," said the spokesman, whose remarks were carried on the official news agency APS and on Algerian radio.

Algeria has been beset by unrest, blamed by officials on the Islamists, in which more than 1,800 people have been killed in two years.

It is now seeking to create a national political consensus for a two- to three-year transition period before a return to democracy and free elections.

The commission has been holding talks with some political parties ahead of a planned national conference this month, although major opposition parties have not taken part.

The FIS is outlawed and most of its leaders either in jail or abroad, while the two main secular parties the former ruling National Liberation Front and the Socialist Forces Front, have boycotted the latest talks.

The country's five-man collective presidency is due to stand down at the end of January and be replaced by an as yet unnamed president and two vice-presidents who should be officially confirmed by the national conference.

Desert camps were opened early in 1992 to combat unrest which erupted shortly after the authorities cancelled a general election which the FIS was

poised to win. An Algerian court banned the FIS in March 1992.

Algeria's official National Observatory of Human Rights estimates that 780 fundamentalists are interned in two camps in Algeria's extreme south. It said that in March 1992 nearly 9,000 Islamists were being held in seven camps.

Mr. Bensalah did not say how many detainees would be freed.

Mr. Bensalah said his organisation had had contacts with FIS representatives. "There have been contacts with people of FIS sensibilities, and these are continuing," he said.

He was unable to provide more details on the development "given its specific and sensitive nature."

He reaffirmed the intention of the CDN to "extend political dialogue to all components of Algerian society, with no one excluded."

The Algerian press reported contacts between the CDN and FIS representatives last November, notably a meeting with a leading FIS official, Abdul Kader Hachani, who has been held at the Serkadji prison in Algiers since January 1992.

Several Algerian parties have urged the authorities to take "appeasement measures" towards the fundamentalists and allow FIS representatives to take part in a dialogue between government and opposition that is to culminate in a "national conference" on Jan. 25 and 26.

The United States said Tuesday it was concerned by the human rights situation in Algeria.

"We have urged the government to undertake the political and structural reforms and the economic reforms," said State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelby.

Fewer than 300 Americans remain in Algeria, where violence has been growing, the State Department said.

A regional governor and his escort were killed Tuesday in an ambush southwest of here, the security services said.

Iran accuses rebels of embassy attack

NICOSIA (AP) — An influential Iranian newspaper has said that a weekend attack on the British embassy in Tehran was a rebel attempt to undermine Iran's efforts at better ties with Europe.

Unknown gunmen opened fire on the embassy Sunday, but the compound was empty and no one was hurt, the British Foreign Office said Tuesday.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman, who could not be identified under government rules, said walls were pocked with bullet holes, but nothing further was known about the incident.

She said diplomats were cooperating in a Tehran police investigation.

The Tehran Times daily, which generally reflects the foreign policy of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, blamed the attack on the Mujahedeen-Khalq, Iran's largest dissident group.

The English-language newspaper said the incident was "undoubtedly" linked to Nov. 9 grenade attacks on the French embassy and an Air France office, in which one airline employee was hurt.

"It is not difficult to deduce from the observable facts and available evidence that such acts of terrorism are meant to damage the international prestige of the Islamic republic," the newspaper said.

A Mujahedeen spokesman in Paris, Sarzin Hashemi, said he had no knowledge of the British embassy attack but called the Tehran Times' allegations "absolutely ridiculous..."

The attacks on the French targets were claimed at the time by Hizbollah of southern Iran, a cover name for various extremist Iranian groups, as a warning to France for granting asylum ten days earlier to Maryam Rajavi, a prominent Mujahedeen member and wife of group leader Massoud Rajavi.

"In the past few months the Islamic republic had undertaken active diplomatic initiatives to resolve its problems with some of the European countries and it had attained

great progress in this direction," the newspaper said.

It cited France's decision earlier this month to return two "citizens" to Iran, despite their being wanted in Switzerland for the murder of Massoud Rajavi's brother Kazem.

The newspaper said that the Mujahedeen was "among the political groups that would benefit from Iran's strained relations with western Europe."

"It is quite logical to conclude that the attacks on the embassies are meant to undermine Iran's recent improved relations with the Western European countries," the newspaper said.

The Mujahedeen spokesman said the editorial was part of Iranian government efforts "to cover up their own hand... I don't think it can deceive anybody..."

"More resistance is inside Iran and is directed against those who are responsible for the torture and imprisonment of Iranian people," he said.

Better ties with S. Arabia

The Tehran Times also called for closer cooperation with Saudi Arabia to improve regional security and prop up sagging world oil prices.

The editorial in the Tehran Times came in the wake of a row late last year in which the two leading oil producers blamed each other for plummeting crude prices.

The newspaper said that if Tehran and Riyadh can settle their differences "their natural right to set the price of oil will automatically follow."

During Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq, Saudi Arabia pumped tens of billions of dollars into Iraq in hopes of warding off militant fundamentalist Iran's perceived threat to Gulf.

The newspaper maintained that the mutual enmity had nothing to do with the historic Arab-Persian rivalry but was wholly the result of Western attempts at sowing discord.

It said the aftermath of the war "had the ironic effect of lifting the veil and exposing the bare truth."

British aid worker well after being freed

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — British aid worker Calum Gardner was freed by his Somali abductors early Wednesday, 42 hours after being kidnapped outside his office in Mogadishu.

Mr. Gardner phoned his father in Britain soon after his release to report that he was well and safe in the World Food Programme (WFP) compound in the Somali capital.

"The first thing he did was to get to a telephone and ring to let us all know he is safe," Dr. Thomas Girdner said in a British radio interview.

"Our conversation was a very brief one, I didn't go into details at all, other than to say 'are you well' and he assured me that he was, and he assured me that he didn't feel he had been badly treated."

Mr. Gardner, 35, was kidnapped by three gunmen on Monday morning as he walked between the WFP's Mogadishu office and his house. The gunmen sped off in a Toyota with Mr. Gardner huddled inside.

His release had been expected since Tuesday afternoon after he called the WFP, on a mobile radio he was carrying.

"I'm ok and in the car," he told Gemmo Lodesani, the WFP's head in Somalia.

A series of delays followed while negotiators sorted out hitches in the release.

The kidnapping ended in the early hours on Wednesday when Mr. Gardner was driven in the WFP compound in Mogadishu.

WFP officials said no payment had been made by the United Nations agency. The kidnappers initially demanded a ransom of \$100,000.

The officials said clan elders had helped in the negotiations with the kidnappers. The WFP gave the elders radio handsets to keep in contact.

The multinational U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) appealed to Somalis to help secure Mr. Gardner's safe return and sent troops to search for him.

An aid worker for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees was kidnapped in the northern town of Hargeisa late last year. His captors demanded a \$5,000 ransom but freed him after elders intervened.

He was freed after elders intervened.

Mr. Lodesani insisted the Gardner abduction had not been politically motivated and had not been carried out by members of the Somali National Alliance of Mohammed Farah Aided.

The WFP is based in south Mogadishu, an Aided stronghold.

Mr. Lodesani described the kidnappers as "handits."

But he was unable to say what arrangements had been made to secure Mr. Gardner's freedom.

A financial consultant to the WFP for the past two months, Mr. Gardner had been in the Somali capital since October 1992, initially working for another aid organisation, the Save the Children Fund.

He was seized by three men in a white Toyota car on Monday as he was walking from one WFP office to another across the street. Mr. Lodesani earlier told reporters.

Gunmen kill 2

Two people were killed and seven wounded in Marka, South of Mogadishu, when protesters were "hired" by the United Nations opened fire. Radio Mogadishu charged late Tuesday.

The radio, which backs Gen. Aided, said "UNOSOM II officials in Marka used hired gunmen, who opened fire on the people who were expressing their patriotism."

Radio Mogadishu, monitored in London by the BBC, reported that the demonstrators had been carrying placards voicing opposition to "UNOSOM II's crooked administration."

J.S. army spokesman Colonel Steve Rumbach, meanwhile, reported that an inquiry into the shooting dead of a Somali woman last Sunday in southern Mogadishu had found "no evidence of misconduct or negligence" by U.S. troops.

Somali witnesses and Pakistani troops seen alongside U.S. units that say said American gunfire had killed the woman.

Tunisia denounces as lies allegations of Amnesty

TUNIS (AFP) — The Tunisian government reacted angrily Wednesday to allegations by Amnesty International of human rights abuses in the country, charging that they were lies to the organisation by Islamic fundamentalists.

A statement by the Department for Information said: "It seems that Amnesty International's sole reason for existence is to falsify reality in the face of all the evidence."

Amnesty International Wednesday what it called the "yawning chasm" between what Tunisia claims to be doing in favour of human rights, and "the reality... of systematic violations."

"Human rights violations are still systematic and brutal in Tunisia, and the government is still doing nothing about it," Amnesty said in a report.

It spoke of "thousands of people arbitrarily arrested, held in illegal incommunicado detention and tortured in the last three years."

The government here dismissed the report.

"We know that this organisation had little regard for the truth. But we didn't know how much it had become linked to and manipulated by the fundamentalists," an official statement said.

Amnesty said in the report published Wednesday that rights groups set up in Tunisia

were "all characterised by lack of independence, powerlessness and servility."

"Seldom, if ever, does any part of this massive human rights bureaucracy prevent human rights abuse," it alleged.

Although the Tunisian government has claimed improvements in its human rights situation, Amnesty said, "in reality, nothing has changed."

Initially those targeted by the opposition groups and the Communist Workers Party, said Amnesty.

"But now, the circle of repression is widening to include relatives, sympathisers and friends of government critics."

But the government insisted that the Tunisian Human Rights League, affiliated to an international movement, had not been dissolved and that it was preparing for its next conference on Feb. 5 and 6.

And the statement added that there were seven political parties in Tunisia, as well as a free press and a democratic process, under which free elections were to be held on March 20.

"It is at precisely this moment that Amnesty and its sleeping partners have chosen to publish a report of pure fiction in order to willfully destroy it (this process)," the government statement added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Assad, Mubarak to meet after Geneva summit

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad shortly after the Syrian-U.S. summit meeting due to be held in Geneva on Sunday, the Al Ahrar daily reported here in its Wednesday edition. Quoting a Syrian official, the newspaper said Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad would hold talks "in the next few days," but did not give the exact date or location of the meeting. They would discuss "the development of the peace process and the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries on all tracks." In a statement to Al Ahrar Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Syria and the United States were "expecting decisive results" from the meeting between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton on Jan. 16. "Real peace with Israel will only be achieved by giving a new impetus to the talks on all tracks: Syrian, Palestinian, Jordanian and Lebanese," Mr. Sharaa said.

Group urges release of 15 prisoners held in Syria

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Human rights groups from the United States, Europe and Arab countries urged President Bill Clinton Tuesday to press for the immediate, unconditional release of 15 prisoners in Syria. A coalition of 17 groups asked Mr. Clinton to press the issue of releasing the 15 human rights monitors when Mr. Clinton meets with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Geneva on Sunday. The prisoners, including writers, attorneys and a university lecturer, all are members of the Independent Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria. It was founded in 1989. The 15 were arrested between December 1991 and March 1992 and charged under Syria's 30-year-old emergency law with membership in an illegal organisation, disseminating false information, and undermining the state after handing out leaflets critical of the government. The 17 non-governmental rights organisations include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Human Rights Law group, as well as Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian and Egyptian rights groups.

Netherlands to build floating Gaza port

TUNIS (R) — The Netherlands said Tuesday it would build and partly finance a floating port in the Gaza Strip, where Israel is due to hand over to a Palestinian authority. Economic Affairs Minister Yvonne van Rooy announced the 100 million guilder (\$51 million) project after talks in Tunis with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. "I Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. The construction of a floating port in the Gaza Strip," Ms. Van Rooy told a news conference. The Netherlands would donate 40 million guilders (\$20.5 million) towards the cost of the project, to be completed over a one-year period, she said. During the meeting Mr. Arafat had asked for a quick start at the work. Dutch officials told Reuters. Technical details would be drawn up now that the financing had been taken care of. Ms. Van Rooy said she also discussed with Mr. Arafat Dutch assistance in reclaiming land from the sea in the Gaza Strip to set up facilities for making milk-based products. She plans to visit Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip during the first week of February. The Dutch minister, accompanied by a business delegation, made a three-day visit to Tunisia during which she also discussed bilateral cooperation with government officials.

Israelis held with false passports

KOMOTINI, Greece (AFP) — Three Israelis were detained in prison in this northern town Tuesday on charges of entering Greece as illegal immigrants and carrying false passports of four different countries. The three men, all residents of Tel Aviv, entered Greece on Jan. 6 on two luxury cars which did not belong to them, judicial officials said. They were carrying three false Israeli and six false French, British and Bulgarian passports, the officials said.

Libya hands over 3 suspects to Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Libya handed over three suspected militants to the Egyptian authorities on Tuesday, the Al Ahrar daily reported here in its Wednesday edition. The newspaper said the three were "terrorists" who had infiltrated into Libya, but did not give details of their arrest. They were handed over at the Salum border post and then transferred to Cairo, where they were due to be interrogated by the Egyptian security services, Al Ahrar said. Meanwhile, the Al Ahrar newspaper reported that Egyptian security forces had arrested 350 suspected militants, mostly in Upper Egypt, during operations in the past two weeks. They seized nearly 700 firearms and more than 440 kilograms of explosives, the daily said.

Belgium rejects Turks' request to ban PKK

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene told his Turkish counterpart Tansu Ciller Tuesday that he had no intention of banning the Kurdish separatist PKK in Belgium. "Belgium wholly condemns the actions of the PKK (Kurdish Labour Party) but a ban on the PKK is not the best way to control them," Mr. Dehaene's spokeswoman quoted him as telling Ms. Ciller during a meeting in Brussels. The spokeswoman noted that Belgium did not plan to recognise the PKK either. She said Mr. Dehaene asked Ms. Ciller to solve the problems between the Turkish government and the Kurds, noting Belgium had succeeded in solving its community problems peacefully.

Editor jailed for insulting Turkish army

ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish court on Tuesday sentenced the chief editor of a leftist newspaper to 10 months' jail for insulting the Turkish army, one of its editors said. Ferit Hever, chief editor of the daily Aydinlik, was sentenced for publishing an article last July about Turkish forces fighting a Kurdish rebellion in south-east Turkey.

Kuwait parliament clears way for officials' prosecution

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — The Kuwaiti parliament has revoked a royal decree that prevented Kuwaiti ministers accused of criminal offences from being tried in court as ordinary citizens.

Speaker Ahmad Al Sabah told a full session of the parliament that the decree, issued by the late Emir Jaber Al Ahmad, "protected ministers instead of allowing them to be tried."

The Kuwaiti parliament, elected in October 1992, has campaigned vigorously against the decree, which was issued while parliament was dissolved.

Lawmakers said the decree had prevented prosecution of officials implicated in financial scandals that were revealed after U.S.-led coalition forces ended the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in February 1991.

Under the royal decree any offence was sent by order of the head of state before a supreme court of five judges appointed by the high council.

Mr. Saoudon drew attention to the case of former Finance Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sahah, suspected of embezzling funds from the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC)

and involvement in the loss of \$5 billion from the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), based in London.

A Kuwaiti court was due to resume proceedings on Wednesday in the KOTC case, involving the embezzlement of an estimated \$200 million.

Deputy Yacoub Hyatt said the abolition of the decree meant "former ministers would be prosecuted in exactly the same way as ordinary citizens."

The present parliament, elected after the emirate's liberation from Iraqi occupation, has been reviewing all government activities since 1986.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said the government was not trying to protect anybody.

"The issue does not deal with individuals, it deals with principles," he said.

Justice Minister Meshari Al Anjari told reporters the law was no longer valid after the parliament vote.

Applause filled the public gallery of parliament as the legislators killed the law.

More than 400 citizens clapped as lawmakers, in a tension-filled session, unanimously voted against the statute. All but three of Kuwait's 16 government ministers attended the session but did not vote.

New Palestinian-Israeli journal launched

A JOINT Palestinian-Israeli English-language magazine was launched at a Jerusalem press conference Tuesday.

The Palestine-Israeli Journal of Politics, Economic, and Culture is the joint initiative of its editors, Ziad Abu Zayyad and Victor Cygelman. Abu Zayyad is a former publisher of Geshen, a Hebrew-language paper for Palestinians, while Cygelman is a former editor of New Outlook, a left-wing journal which closed last January.

"We felt the new era demands more joint efforts," said Abu Zayyad. "We can't publish in Arabic or Hebrew, as

not everyone can understand either of those languages, so we chose English the language of our former colonisers — so that everyone could understand."

The quarterly magazine will be published in Jerusalem, but Abu Zayyad said a "neutral place abroad" is being sought to facilitate distribution in the Arab world.

The initial circulation is expected to be 4,000 mainly to academics, students, and intellectuals. Copies will be available at bookstores for NIS 30 each; annual subscriptions cost

\$50.

Although several of the editors and contributors used to work of New Outlook, Cygelman said the Palestine-Israeli Journal is an independent magazine and not a continuation of that journal under a new name.

"New Outlook worked for 35 years to promote dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians when there was none. Now we are here not to promote dialogue but to examine the issues behind it," he said.

Each issue will focus on a different topic, the first being

economics.

Funding has been promised by Med-Media, a European foundation, and it receives assistance from the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, based in Jerusalem.

The editorial board is an equal mix of Arabs and Jews. The first issue opens with a dedication to the 15-year-old son of editorial board member Itzai Chazavai, who was killed by Israeli soldiers during a stone throwing incident as the journal went to press — The Jerusalem Post.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 771111	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	News in French
18:00	News in French
19:15	Rencontre
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Flesh and Blood
21:00	Da Beats On
22:00	News in English
22:30	Film "Oil Beat"
PRAYER TIMES	
06:11	Fajr
06:32	Sunrise (Doha)
11:44	Dhuhr
14:33	Asr
16:25	Maghreb
18:17	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 637440	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630551, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 624526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624326	
German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 644195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 645492	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average. Clouds will appear at different altitudes, and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with clouds building up in the horizon. Winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman Min/Max Temp. 6: 18 13: 25	
Aqaba Min/Max Temp. 5: 21 13: 24	
Jordan Valley Min/Max Temp. 13: 24	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY

man 16, Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Al-Sayid	790296
Dr. Walid Al-Sayid	675485
Dr. Ragab Al-Sayid	844795
Dr. Mohamed Al-Sayid	652693
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	675055
Naroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636738
Yaacoub pharmacy	640495
Shamsan pharmacy	637661
Najm pharmacy	847632

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	620341
Civil Defence Emergency	109
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	801258
Blood Bank	773121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	696391
Public Security Department	630521
Hotel Complaints	675810
Piece Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	874767
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	777111
Telephone Information	
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	011230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680101
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RF Flight Information	18-5320
QJ Al Int. Airport	08-5320

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Hamdan	987225
Khalaf pharmacy	985417



Delegates from 12 Arab countries Wednesday attend the closing session of a seminar on social security (Petra photo)

Symposium urges protection of Arab migrant workers' rights

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day symposium on social security in the Arab World ended in Amman Wednesday, with delegates from 12 Arab states calling on Arab governments to preserve and protect the rights of workers who move to work in other Arab states, as stipulated in a pan-Arab agreement sponsored by the Arab League.

The pan-Arab agreement provides for the Arab workers to have the right to their savings and end-of-service compensation as well as the right to

transfer earnings. The participants urged the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), which organised the meeting, to help Arab states work out and adopt an Arab strategy on social security and serve as a catalyst in cooperation among Arab countries in the field of social security.

The delegates urged the ALO to conduct further research and studies aimed at promoting the concept and the philosophy of social security and upgrade the Arab states' social security systems.

The meeting, which was held at Amra Hotel in Amman, discussed Arab states' experience in social security affairs, exchange of expertise and a number of case studies.

Altogether, 45 participants attended the meeting, representing Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen in addition to four Arab experts from the Arab chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture and the International Social Security Association.

Premier briefs Dutch delegation on progress of work at cancer centre, laws on health plan

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday briefed a Dutch delegation on progress of work at the establishment of Al Amal Cancer Centre and medical services presented by the government to citizens.

The delegation, which is visiting Jordan to evaluate work progress at the centre with the aim of extending financial and technical assistance worth \$7 million, was also briefed on legislation being drafted by the government to include all citizens in a comprehensive health plan, including cancer patients.

Dr. Majali affirmed to the delegation the keenness of the government to support the establishment of Al Amal Centre, which is considered a fully integrated one, including an early cancer detection unit and

departments aiming at spreading public awareness about the disease.

He said the government is looking for ways to cover the treatment of needy cancer patients. One of the ways would be the establishment of a poor patient fund, according to earlier statements by some officials.

Dr. Majali stressed the need to have early cancer detection centres around the Kingdom, noting that these centres would be affiliated to Al Amal Cancer Centre.

The delegation members expressed the keenness of the government of the Netherlands to support this project through providing technical and scientific assistance to the centre, considered the first in the Arab region.

Currently, the national task

force entrusted with the establishment of the centre is drawing up a set of regulations to ensure continued income for the centre to be able to offer services to needy patients free of charge.

In addition to setting up the so-called poor patient fund, the task force is also thinking of launching several investment projects so as to ensure that the cost of running the centre, estimated at JD 3 million annually, would be secured.

According to the regulations, revenues for the centre will be covered by the cost of the medical services, annual subscriptions of the sponsors and extra taxes which would be imposed on cigarettes and other materials thought to be a direct cause of cancer.

The official said that the move was aimed at training sufficient cadres to be employed in the dress-making industry in Jordan which is currently facing man-power shortages.

It is hoped, he said, that the agreement would open the way for the creation of a national man-power training centre, capable of supplying the clothing and dress-making industry with all its needs, especially as many of the Jordanian firms in this field are planning to export a major part of their production.

The Department of Meteorology said Wednesday that Thursday the weather will be warm, with a little rise in temperature, making way for the high winds and the rains in fall Friday.

According to the department, the rains will cover almost all regions as successive cold fronts would affect the country and the eastern Mediterranean region.

The rains and the high, south-westerly winds will cause a noticeable drop in temperatures, it added.

Jordan, Sweden sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN — An agreement regarding technical cooperation between Sweden and Jordan in the field of traffic safety was signed on Wednesday by the General Director of Public Security Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Udwan and Hans Eriksson, vice president of SweRoad, a subsidiary of the National Swedish Road Administration, in the presence of the ambassador of Sweden in Amman, Christian Bausch.

The agreement will cover cooperation in such traffic-related fields as:

— Development of an accident reporting system.

— Establishing a training centre for drivers and instructors.

— Assessment of traffic personnel and preparation of special training programmes.

— Review of traffic laws and regulations, especially those related to drivers' licences and registration of vehicles.

— Organisational adjustments in the licensing and traffic departments.

The Swedish government's contribution to this project amounts to 2865,000 Crowns equivalent to approximately JD 230,000.

Presently, five other Swedish-Jordanian technical cooperation projects are in the process of preparation or implementation. They are related to the Jordan Electricity Authority, the Jordanian Telecommunication, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Industrial Development Bank and the Al Amal Cancer Clinic.

Government task force to revise public administration legislation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday instructed a government task force to conduct a comprehensive revision of legislation governing public administration's work and to revise the salary scale of government employees and civil servants.

"The time has come for revising the status of all workers in government offices and for re-examining the role and the function of their organisations with a view to reorganising their work in a sound manner," said the prime minister at a meeting with the task force, attended by his deputy, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar.

"It is incumbent on us to undertake this important step as we are now at the threshold of a new decade which is expected to witness major changes that could be drastic in all fields affecting socio-economic development, and thus we are bound to make changes and preparations in order to deal with all eventualities," the prime minister stressed.

"With the ongoing peace process, it would be unacceptable to see major differences in the income of people living in one area of land and therefore we are bound to be prepared to confront and deal with issues that might emerge as a result of this situation," he added.

"The present public administration system in Jordan has been instrumental in the country's stability over the past years, but with the passage of time this system has become in need of development and modernisation, starting from the base," said Dr. Majali.

He said that such a development should be based on the premise of interaction among various offices, and the development must not be based



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday presides over a meeting of government task force in charge of overhauling work of public administration (Petra photo)

on personal views but rather on general experience.

Referring to the employees' salaries, the prime minister said that there should be a re-examination of these salaries in terms of efficiency and there should be a new spirit of rewarding the office and the workers who deserve it.

Following the comprehensive study, the task force ought to prepare a report and present proposals which should take into account measures helping to transform the present system into a more active and better functioning administration, mentioning obstacles that might surface, solutions for problems and job descriptions for each post, the prime minister said.

The prime minister had ear-

lier set up the task force which would be entrusted with the task of revising legislation governing the public administration system, focusing on the civil pension law of 1959, the civil service law of 1988, the allowances law of 1988 and the appointment of employees law of 1993, as well as regulations on incentives for the civil servants.

The government said that the overhauling process was in response to directives by His Majesty King Hussein's Speech from the Throne to Parliament last November and in line with the government's policy of improving and modernising the public administration system as pledged before Parliament.

The task force, which is

headed by the deputy prime minister, groups the minister of state for prime ministry affairs and minister of information, minister of planning, minister of state for legal affairs, the president of the Civil Service Commission and the advisor at the Legislation Bureau.

Commenting on the new move, the deputy prime minister, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar said that the overhaul was designed to help the Kingdom cope with the requirements of the 21st century and the drastic changes expected in the region in the coming years.

Attached to the ministerial committee, Dr. Abu Nowar said, are several sub-technical committees.

Chemical company, investment corporation to sign loan agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Indo-Jordanian Chemical Company and the International Investments Corporation will soon sign a \$30 million loan agreement to finance the establishment of a phosphoric acid and sulphates plant in the free zone area in Shidiya and Aqaba, according to Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company Samah Al Madani.

Mr. Madani, who is also director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, said the Indo-Jordan Petrochemicals Company was established with a joint capital provided by the Phosphate Mines Company, the South India Petrochemicals Company and the Jeddah-based Arab Investment Company.

He said that under the terms of the agreement, the International Investments Corporation will work on securing the remainder of the amount needed to finance the project in cooperation with a French banking group, a Finnish bank and a group of local banks, pointing

out that this agreement is now in its final stages.

This agreement and those which will follow are a result of the belief of the International Investments Corporation and the other financiers in the feasibility of the project, he said. The financiers have accepted to have the project as self-guarantor and agreed that the debts be served from the project revenues without providing any government or private guarantees, Mr. Madani said.

Once the project is completed in 1996, he said, it will be consuming 750,800 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates annually. Its whole production of phosphoric acid, estimated at 225,000 tonnes annually, will be sold to India, in accordance with a long-term agreement, he added.

According to Mr. Madani, the project, whose annual revenues will be between \$70-\$80 million, will provide job opportunities for about 400 Jordanians.



MAJALI CONFERS WITH SPANISH OFFICIAL — Visiting Spanish under-secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Francisco Villar held talks here Wednesday with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan to discuss Middle Eastern affairs and Spanish-Jordanian Relations. The Spanish official, who arrived Tuesday on a two-day official visit, heard Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali voicing Jordan's appreciation and grati-

tude for Spain's efforts and role in arranging for the Madrid peace conference. The conference constituted a distinguished step, leading the Middle East region towards peace, said the prime minister at the meeting. Mr. Villar conveyed to Dr. Majali greetings from the Spanish prime minister and reviewed with him scopes of Spanish-Jordanian cooperation in a number of fields. Mr. Villar and Mr. Hassan later discussed the peace talks which they described as a historic, turning point.

VTC to train young seamstresses

AMMAN (Petra) — A local clothing company and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Wednesday concluded a deal on bilateral cooperation in providing vocational training to young women in two of the VTC centres.

Under the terms of the agreement, the VTC centres in Marka and Russeifa will be operated technically by the local firm which undertakes to train young women on dress making for mass production.

The local firm, owned and managed by Nadim Muasher, will bring in an Italian expert in training in the dress-making business to supervise the training procedures and help raise the standard and efficiency and follow up on the implementation

of training programmes, according to the terms of the agreement.

The training, which is due to start as of the beginning of February will last for two years, according to the renewable contract.

While the VTC undertakes the task of maintaining the machines and equipment and the overall expenses of the two training centres, the local firm will pay the wages of the supervisory technicians and the instructors, including the Italian expert, and will also bring in all the required materials for training the young women, said the agreement.

To help supervise the implementation of the agreement, a six-member committee repre-

sented the two sides has been set up, said a VTC official, following the signing ceremony.

The official said that the move was aimed at training sufficient cadres to be employed in the dress-making industry in Jordan which is currently facing man-power shortages.

It is hoped, he said, that the agreement would open the way for the creation of a national man-power training centre,

capable of supplying the clothing and dress-making industry with all its needs, especially as many of the Jordanian firms in this field are planning to export a major part of their production.

Two local firms to carry out work at Manara, Marqeb estates

AMMAN (Petra) — Two local construction firms Wednesday won two contracts to carry out the fourth phase of Al Manara Housing Estate and to build community services for Al Manara and Al Marqeb estates.

Yusef Hiyasat, director general of the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD) who signed the two contracts, said that the first agreement concerns the installation of an infrastructure network, like water, sewerage, roads, electricity, retaining walls, etc., for 458 plots of land on which housing and business units are to be set up.

The 458 plots will be included within a 200 dunum area of land. Each plot ranges from 50 to 150 square metres in

area and is to be sold to the beneficiaries to set up homes on them, said Mr. Hiyasat who also noted that some of these units will be sold to low-income groups at subsidised prices, that is far less than the cost price.

The difference in the cost will be covered through the sale of the larger plots, at the same site, to entrepreneurs starting businesses and for commercial purposes.

Noting that most of the plots will benefit the limited-income groups, Mr. Hiyasat said that the project, which is located east of Amman, would be set up for the sake of those who have never benefited from the department's housing schemes before.

According to Mr. Hiyasat,

work on the project was due to start on Jan. 15 at the cost of JD15 million. He said that work on the project would take at least 14 months to be completed.

The project entails building 40,000 square metres of roads, 8,000 square metres of pedestrian paths, 10,000 metres of water networks, 8,000 metres of sewerage and rain water networks, in addition to other civil works which include telephone and electricity cable networks.

Mr. Hiyasat said that the second contract provides for the construction of community centres in Manara, along with a health centre in Marqeb and a 2,700 square metre girl's school and a recreational centre for the community.



Housing Corporation Director Yusef Hiyasat (centre) Wednesday signs a contract with two local construction companies to perform work at Al Manara Housing Estate (Petra photo)

Religious dialogue to tackle faith, nationalism

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman next Tuesday will host an Islamic-Christian dialogue, the fourth of its kind, to help promote cooperation and enhance links among various faiths.

Hosted by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bayt Foundation), the three-day meeting will discuss a host of research papers focusing on Islam's view of nationalism, Christianity's stand on nationalism, nationalism links, relationship between nationalism and religion in the contemporary age, challenges and issues facing these relations and other topics.

Organised under the title "Religion and Nationalism", the meeting is designed to

serve as a forum to shed light on historic links among world religions and nationalities.

The series of dialogues initiated at the behest of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan since 1984, the meetings have been held in cooperation with the Vatican council on relations with other religions in Rome together with a number of international institutions.

According to an Al Al Bayt announcement Wednesday, the meetings are to be held at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman. Taking part in the dialogue are scholars from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, the U.S., Spain, Nigeria and France.

Jordan sells JD7m worth of produce

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last month exported about 307,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to foreign markets, for a total value of about JD 7.03 million calculated at the higher wholesale market price, according to the Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The AMO sources said vegetables constituted 58 per cent of the total exports, sold at around JD 4.86 million, while fruits constituted 42 per cent, at a value of JD 2.17 million.

Lebanon was the number one importer of Jordanian produce, buying 28.9 per cent of

the total. Saudi Arabia imported 25.3 per cent, the United Arab Emirates 18.2 per cent, Bahrain 18.5 per cent, and Qatar imported 8.6 per cent. Jordanian exports to foreign countries accounted for 2.6 per cent of the total agricultural exports.

Tomatoes constituted 27.8 per cent of the exports, tangerines stood for 27.1 per cent, lemons 10.5 per cent, eggplants seven per cent, cucumbers 5.8 per cent, peppers 5.2 per cent, lettuce 4.2 per cent, marrows 2.2 per cent, cabbage 2.1 per cent, oranges 1.7 per cent, beans 1.6 per cent, cauliflower 1.5 per cent and others 3.1 per cent.

The AMO sources said Jordan's exports in December 1993 have increased by 4,643 tonnes, compared in the same month in 1992. Exports of some kinds of vegetables, such as langerines, lemons, cucumbers and eggplants have increased while other kinds, such as tomatoes, oranges, mandarin and cauliflower have dropped, the sources added.

They said Jordan's exports in the same month have also witnessed an increase of about 4,966 tonnes over the previous month of November.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Photo exhibition by artist Muwaffaq Al Sheikh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwalsh entitled "Talisman" at Basadani Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhreissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

FILMS

- ★ Film in English on Spanish artist Miro (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khaleel Khreis) at Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawweibdeh at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).
- ★ Film entitled "Strangers on a Train" at the American Center at 5:00, p.m. (100 minutes) (on Thursday).

SALE

- ★ Jordan River Designs offers things for sale at the showroom in Jabal Lawweibdeh (Thursday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 656872/528760)

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Sweet and sour

IT WAS quite refreshing and encouraging to hear U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown talking about economic development of the Middle East being translated into tangible improvement in the standard of life of the people of the region. Mr. Brown's comments, made during a satellite teleconference on the eve of his visit to the Middle East next week, underlined a clear understanding of a very basic pillar of any peace agreement — that the people, the ordinary man and woman in the street, have to feel that peace, coming after decades of bloodshed, bitter struggle and untold sufferings, has changed their lives for the better and that their sacrifices are rewarded in equal measure. It is probably worth mentioning here that the people who have been making the sacrifices were always limited to one side of the Arab-Israeli divide.

The gaping disparity in the per capita income in Israel and in the Arab countries neighbouring it is the best indicator of who paid the price for the continuing conflict and who benefitted from it. Can there be any comparison, for example, between Israel's \$11,000 per capita income and Jordan's \$1,620? The scenario gets worse when one considers that the publicly acknowledged American assistance to Israel is as much as 75 per cent of Jordan's gross domestic product.

In any event, for Jordan, which has always argued that peace and stability cannot be guaranteed unless the concept is inevitably linked to a better living for the people, Mr. Brown's comments were very reassuring if only because the U.S. secretary highlighted the direction of thinking in Washington, which, whether it acknowledges it or not, does wield the influence and power to change the lives of the people.

At the same time, it was disturbing to note that Washington is also determined to press for the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel. While all of us in this region look forward to regional cooperation and interaction that would upgrade our lives, it goes without saying that the Arab economic embargo against Israel did not come out of a vacuum and it could not be addressed in a vacuum.

First and foremost, it has to be understood that the economic boycott of Israel is the only instrument left in the Arab hands to ensure that the Jewish state abides by international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions while arriving at a peace settlement. Any move to lift the Arab boycott at this point in time, when it is not even established that Israel is indeed in any mood to address the legitimate Arab demands, whether in terms of territory, water or refugees, will be a grave political concession that will not bode well at all for the Arab quest for an equitable settlement to the root conflict.

To pressure the Arab countries to make such a political concession in return, possibly, for American moves to improve the living conditions of their people is very short-sighted at best.

Welcoming realistic American moves towards tangible economic development of the region is one thing, but to seek to link such move with political concession on the Arab side is something else.

Such a linkage is particularly disturbing for us in Jordan. The Kingdom has been going out of the way and dealing with the Palestinians in the occupied territories to alleviate their economic problems under occupation by buying their products while it remained under an Israeli ban against its exports to the Palestinians. And judging from Israeli moves, it is also clear that the Jewish state, if given its way, has no intention of relaxing its grip on the Palestinian market.

Either way, any consideration of the lifting of the embargo on Israel does not make sense for us here at this point in time, both politically and economically.

We could only hope that while speaking in economic terms, Mr. Brown and others accompanying him would not be trying to slip a fast one on us by implicitly demanding concessions which, at this point in time, mean nothing but an encouragement for Israel not to budge from its refusal to address legitimate Arab demands, including those of Jordan.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FEW ARE those Arab states and Arab leaders who are keen on preserving Yemen's unity, but, regrettably, many are those who are bent on concocting conspiracies to see the Yemeni people divided, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said Jordan is one of a few Arab states keen on maintaining Yemen's unity and it is the only Arab state to spearhead efforts towards ensuring that the Yemeni people are holding on to their unity. The paper said that Jordan is keen on making speedy moves aimed at foiling hostile attempts designed to dismember Yemen and deepen divisions among its leaders and people. Jordan is motivated by a national and pan-Arab responsibility and feels it is a duty not only to Yemen, but to the whole Arab World to try to keep the Yemeni people united at all costs, continued the paper. Preserving Yemen's unity would be a success for Jordan and all those Arabs true in their efforts to bolster the Arab Nation, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that the Yemeni people who achieved unity three years ago would offer sacrifices and exert all possible efforts to preserve this unity and achieve part of the dreams of Arab masses and bring joy to millions.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily lashed at the United States for maintaining sanctions on the Iraqi people, accusing Washington of seeking to achieve its own selfish interests. It is because the Iraqis have tried to reach agreement with Japan to exploit the oil and market it independently from the United States that Washington launched war on Iraq, charged Tarek Masarweh. It is because the Iraqi oil would keep the Japanese industry going to the detriment of the American economy that Mr. Bush fought a war against Iraq, he said. The writer said that the United States is showing hostility towards Sudan only because of its selfish interests and because it was proven through American oil firms that oil exists in Somalia and in southern Sudan.

The resumption of the Taba talks — a time of rejoice and concern

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WE VIEW the resumption of peace talks in Taba between the Palestinians and the Israelis with both joy and anxiety. On the one hand, one is truly heartened to see the two sides, despite the many dead ends they keep running into and the irritating disputes over procedure (still) and substance, come to the negotiating table with renewed hope and strong will. Undoubtedly, we highly commend the PLO's and Israel's ability to recuperate after each fall or unpleasant encounter, their determination to have fresh start, their perseverance, and their commitment to the establishment of peace on the basis of the Sept. 13 accord. The sheer fact that the two sides are meeting and attempting to resolve the differences, irrespective of the outcome, is itself a significant achievement. No matter what, talks are better than no talks. Indeed, to see the PLO and Israel, who a few months ago had no serious communication going on, sit down face to face, with very little outside help or mediation, and debate matters openly, uninhibited and cordially is a development worth applauding. This ought to have happened years ago.

Furthermore, real progress has in fact been made. Statements by officials from both delegations make it clear that the two sides have addressed issues other than the three on which there has been serious disagreement (the size of the Jericho area, etc.) and that, more importantly, the exchange of views over these other issues has passed quite smoothly. The understanding we have here is that the discussion of such matters will not be as thorny, unnerving and upsettingly slow as that of the former three. Such news is indeed welcome.

But welcome is also the news about the three controversial points themselves. A careful reading of comments to the press by the PLO and Israel reveals that the two have not been totally stuck on the questions of the size of the Jericho area, the border crossings with Jordan and Egypt and the security of the Israeli settlements in the Gaza region. Far from it, for both parties have altered their positions somewhat significantly in an attempt to reach a common ground. The Cairo controversy, the way I understand it, is not so much about whether the two sides have agreed or not, but about how much agreement there has been. Tangible results have been, and are being, realised.

Certainly, we appreciate all of this. On the other hand, however, there are causes for some worry or concern. The first has to do with the wide discrepancy between the expectations of both sides regarding the amount of time needed to tackle the various matters and the frequent disagreement over the degree of progress made throughout and upon the conclusion of each round of talks. In the very first day of the current round of negotiations, for instance, the Palestinian delegation declared that the two parties should in two weeks be ready to sign an agreement; the Israeli delegation objected immediately, saying that at least six to eight weeks were needed for an agreement to be signed. Frankly speaking, we find such statements both puzzling and pointless. Of course, they may be part and parcel of the game of politics. They may also express what each side wishes to see happening; the Palestinians are in a hurry, the Israelis are taking their time. Nevertheless, to an informed and sincere observer, such behaviour, no matter how one looks at it, appears unnecessarily playful, absurd, amateurish, and highly unprofessional. The second day the Israelis announced that the two sides had come to

an understanding regarding the size of the Jericho area; the Palestinians hastened to deny such an understanding. What can we poor observers make of this?

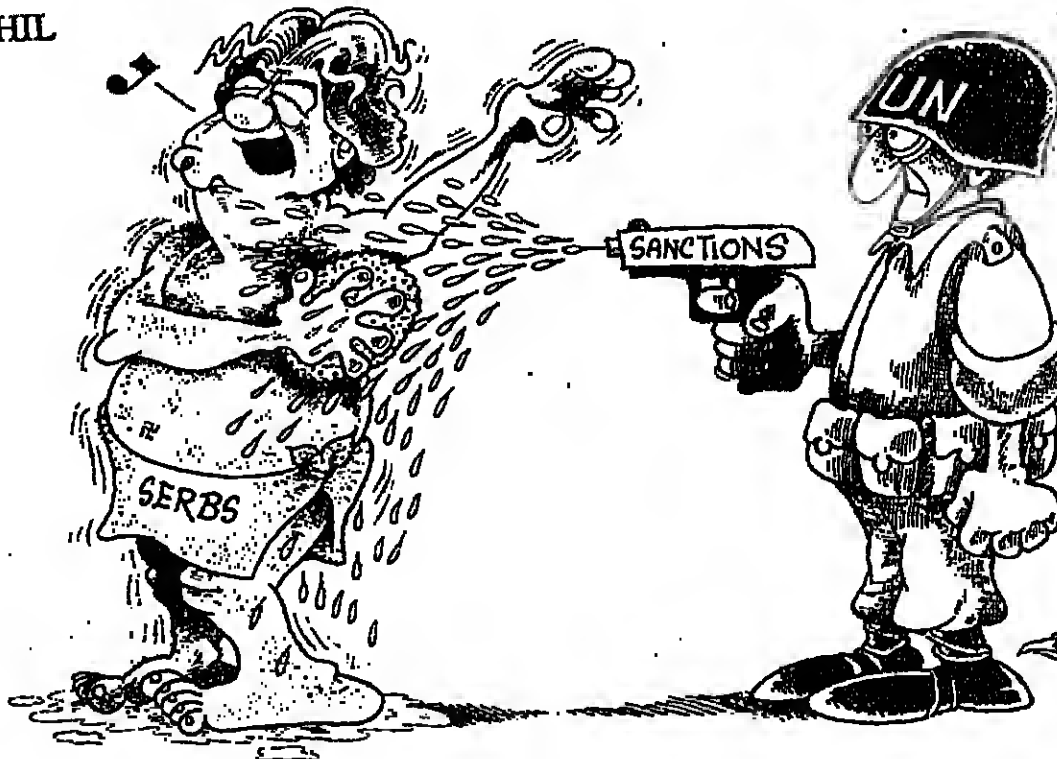
The second cause of worry, stemming from the first, is Israel's obvious disrespect of deadlines. When the two parties met in Oslo and drafted the historic accord, they included an important time line. To be sure, the dates specified in the agreement are not written in gold nor engraved in marble. Israel does not have to withdraw precisely on the very specific day it is supposed to withdraw. After all, these are approximate dates set up to organise and facilitate the process. At the same time, however, we must insist that such deadlines (which were mutually approved) must be respected as much as possible. To go to the other extreme (as Israel is doing) and say (as Israel is saying) that these deadlines are neither "sacred" nor "binding" and that "we (the Israelis) will take as much time as we see fit" reflects very negatively on Israel. Such indifferent attitude reflects also a certain degree of selfishness, irresponsibility, and even causes harm to the peace process. Suppose the deadlines were in Israel's favour. Would it procrastinate and take its time? I seriously doubt it.

I am under the impression at times, and I hope that I am mistaken, that Israel thinks peace is in the interest of the Palestinians and the Arabs only. Such notion is absolutely false, for Israel has as much to gain from a post-war era as the Palestinians and the Arabs, if not more; its true security and prosperity depend almost entirely on it.

To me, the peace talks are a test not only of the PLO's and Israel's negotiating ability and intention but also of their very personality or character. The Gaza/Jericho accord is not a business transaction between a buyer and a seller who do not know each other and who, upon the completion of the transaction, may never see each other, but a sacred covenant between two neighbours who plan to live side by side forever and conduct business on the basis of genuine mutual respect, sincerity, integrity, and fairness. In my opinion, the present talks will set the tone for the future relationship among the so-called children of Abraham and shall epitomise very concretely what the new Middle East will look like.

Therefore, the two sides ought to exercise more discretion in whatever they assert or announce. Why say, for instance, two or six or eight weeks? In fact, why impose time limits from day one? Let the two parties take as much time as they actually need, without either rushing things or procrastinating, until they come to a full agreement on the basic issues. This does not mean, however, that we have all the time in the world at our disposal. Additionally, we want the two delegations to go about conducting their business in a more disciplined, orderly, and efficient manner. In particular, we expect them to articulate in very precise terms the extent of agreement reached or disagreement there still exists. This could be done quite simply through a joint communication at the end of each working day or each round. Why this is not happening is beyond me. Above all, we would like to see more flexibility from Israel and less nit-picking, less fuss over petty little things. Why this ado about the size of the Jericho area, the border crossings, and the security of the Israeli settlements in Gaza when (as Israel well knows) all of these will eventually be, on the basis of the U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and the Sept. 13 accord itself, under full Palestinian control at the end of the autonomy period?

M. KAHIL



U.S. sanctions policies coming under fire

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — From Serbia to Haiti, Iraq to Libya, the United States and its allies are relying on economic sanctions to combat rogue regimes. Do they work?

There is no question that sanctions have the power to impoverish nations and increase disease and malnutrition.

But are they effective in forcing governments to change their behaviour and obey the will of the international community? More and more people have their doubts.

"We are seeing in Haiti and former Yugoslavia the consequences of sanctions on poor people," said Andrew Natsios, who was former President George Bush's humanitarian envoy on Somalia and is now vice president of world vision, an international aid organisation.

"Sanctions are an easy way for the State Department to avoid action that might really count in a complex crisis. In that sense, they are worse than doing nothing. They are a cop-out," he said.

Although events in Iraq, Serbia and Haiti have heightened awareness, the debate

about sanctions has been going on for decades. After World War I, President Woodrow Wilson saw them as a way of preventing future conflicts.

"Apply this economic, peaceful, silent, deadly remedy and there will be no need for force," he argued optimistically. But John Foster Dulles, later to become secretary of state under President Dwight Eisenhower, pointed out the obvious problem: sanctions harm the innocent.

That essentially is still the problem today. In Haiti, the United States now has an emergency programme to feed almost 900,000 people every day — people whose livelihoods have been destroyed by sanctions. Still, said Mr. Natsios, "We can't get our food and medicine delivered to many places and malnutrition rates are rising among children."

Faced with such stories, scientists and charmen have joined the debate. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists put out a special edition on sanctions last November.

Editor Mike Moore wrote: "Although sanctions have surely contributed to malnutri-

tion in Iraq, one supposes (President) Saddam Hussein has never involuntarily missed a meal."

U.S. Roman Catholic bishops included a clause in a document on peacemaking issued late last year which said that sweeping sanctions were only justified in response to aggression or "grave and ongoing injustices" and that the harm they caused should always be measured against the good they were likely to achieve.

One State Department official conceded that sanctions were "a blunt instrument which hurt populations" but said the United States always tried to provide humanitarian assistance for those who suffered.

"Is there a reassessment of sanctions as a tool of policy? Not that I'm aware of," the official said.

One study on the effectiveness of sanctions by the Institute for International Economics in Washington examined 104 cases since World War II. It found they succeeded in about a third of cases, usually when the goals were modest and well-defined.

Supporters of sanctions point to their success in achieving majority rule and eventual independence for Zimbabwe in the early 1980s and in forcing South Africa's white regime to abandon apartheid and agree to a multiracial society.

Mr. Natsios believes sanctions were effective in those cases because the white governments concerned were responsive to white opinion. "For sanctions to work there has to be a political system where popular pressure can work," he said.

This is clearly not the case in Iraq, Haiti or Serbia. In the latter case, sanctions have failed in half the war in Bosnia or weaken President Slobodan Milosevic, though they have destroyed the Serbian economy, fuelling hyperinflation.

George Kenney of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace believes sanctions may have strengthened Mr. Milosevic politically rather than weakening him.

"Sanctions have proved to be a way of waging war against all the people of a state, but you're not guaranteed results for a long time," he said.

Israel is not a Jewish state

By Khaled A. Hishma

IT IS becoming obvious that our leaders and intellectuals in the Arab as well as Muslim worlds, have fallen into the Zionist trap of not differentiating between Zionism as an ideology, and Judaism as a religion. This exactly what the founding fathers of Zionism and its entity Israel intended. For the transition of Zionism from an aspiring movement to a political state intensified the latent antagonisms between the exclusivist nationalism of "Israel" and the broader facets of intellectual orientation in modern Jewish and gentile life.

From a variety of particular positions, Jews of our time have questioned the ultimate validity of the Zionist thesis and the character of the state of Israel it fostered. The leading Zionist theoreticians and politicians recognise that with the support of the Jewish world, Zionism would turn into a soap bubble ready to burst any moment. That is why they try to build in every Jew the belief that Zionism and Judaism are inseparable and are the two sides of the same organism. One of these Zionist leaders who became the first president of Israel stated, for example: "Our Jewishness and our Zionism were interchangeable; you could not destroy the second without destroying the first."

Judaism and Zionism have very little in common and are actually two conflicting outlooks. Zionism is a political movement seeking to recast the spiritual and religious concepts of Judaism in ethnic and materialistic terms. As such, it cannot claim any religious sanctity. Zionism not only re-casts Judaism in ethnic terms, it also reinterprets the historic experience of Jewry in terms of the same ethnicity. In its definition of Judaism and Jewry, Zionism echoes in many respects the literature of anti-Semitism. The Jews, according to the gentile Zionist plan, were to be "restored" to Palestine in order to rid Europe of their presence and to turn them, simultaneously into agents of their colonial sponsors.

Judaism, on the other hand, is a combination of philosophical, moral, religious, cultural, ethical, ideological, and legal views; it is a purposeful doctrine and a universal notion. In practice, Zionism could hardly have spread to any considerable extent were it not for its clinging to the idea of the need to create for the Jews their own state.

The term "Jewish people" in Judaism is a religious one, signifying a community of true believers who put their faith in one true God, and whose membership in that community, as British historian Arnold Toynbee wrote, is conditioned on their obeying God's commands.

Jewish religious traditions have a rich vocabulary, referring to the Jewish people variously as the "chosen people," the "holy people," the "spiritual people," "Israel" (he who strives with the Lord) and "God's treasure."

Like Israel (the land), Israel (the people) is set apart from the rest of the mankind as a community having a special relationship with a transcendent God, a claim made by all the devout in almost all religions. But this sense of chosenness is defined and limited by other concepts and images in Judaism. The majestic story of

the creation of Adam and Eve implies a common origin for all people and therefore a basic equality between them. God in Judaism is universal; it is the God of all, who blesses all nations and who considers the Jews "as the children of Ethiopians unto me." Therefore, the vision of salvation includes all nations.

Outstanding Jewish thinkers, recognised the racial, chauvinistic, isolationist, narrow-minded, and totalitarian — nationalist elements of Zionism and warned against their consequences. They considered the "Jewish nationalism" as contrary to the "universalist interpretation of Jewish history and destiny."

A number of Jewish intellectuals, representing different generations and professions, have rejected the existence of a Jewish state based on the understanding that "the essential nature of Judaism resists the idea of a Jewish state, with borders, an army and a measure of temporal power no matter how modest... A return to a nation, in the political sense of the word, would be equivalent to turning away from the spiritualism of our community."

Rabbi Elmer Berger, formerly executive director of the American Council for Judaism and one of the creators of the American Jewish alternative to Zionism, has explained his personal opposition to Zionism as such: "The central idea of Zionism was the ex cathedra, authoritarian, legal-political claim that 'the Jewish people' was a national entity which, in international law, had been recognised to have nationality rights in, and nationality obligations to, the Zionist political-territorial entity in Palestine."

Other opponents of Zionism and Israel denied the existence of a Jewish nation or a Jewish race linked to Palestine or any territory. And both Orthodox and Reform Jews have rejected a nationalist definition of the Jew. The viewed Jewish identity as determined by a religious rather than an ethnic content.

In this respect, Israel cannot claim to be a Jewish state, for this contradicts the definition of a Jew in Judaism. In addition, many rabbis rejected "the nationalistic" political Zionist interpretation of Judaism. They believed the Jews to be a religious community, and declaring Palestine a national home for the Jews a "crime against... the visions of their great prophets..." (and that) a Jewish state involves fundamental limitations as to race and religion, or else the term "Jewish" means nothing."

It is clear then why Zionism and Israel were rejected by many religious Jews and regarded as the latest and least reputable "catastrophic pseudo-messianic" heresy, and why they asserted that they did not expect "a return to Palestine."

It is therefore unfortunate that while Jewish intellectuals, rabbis and thinkers, reject the Zionist entity in Palestine, our intellectuals and leaders accept it and call it a Jewish state, when it is not at all.

The writer has a Master's degree in International Relations and works as a translator at Al Rouda Centre for Information and Study in Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

One-sided news

To the Editor:

Regarding your editorial on Tuesday (Messenger with bad news) Jordan Times, Jan. 11, 1994), commenting on Prime Minister Majid's blaming the media for continued strain in Jordan-Gulf ties, I would like to say a few words.

Although I strongly support free speech and democracy and I totally support free press and opinions by our Jordanian writers, I feel that the Jordanian writers and columnists are more influenced by their own political and ideological background than by the feelings of the "silent majority" of this country.

So in this new era of democracy, I urge the government to state clearly their stands and opinions to the public and not leave us in the dark, to be influenced by one-sided opinions only. We have the right to know the government's stands and opinions.

I also urge all Jordanians to voice their opinions in our democratic Jordan by writing to the press or to the representatives in the Parliament. It is about time that we started in building democracy.

Metri Twai,
P.O. Box 35241,
Amman.



Drama in education — a real change from old methods

By Mohammad Masharga

Drama in education is no more confined to a limited number of private or "pioneering schools" in Jordan. The successful experiments, spearheaded by Samar Dudin, Edwina Issa and Margo Malajanian to introduce a real change in the traditional educational methods, have now become the main concern of those involved in developing educational curricula in Jordan.

The first national educational conference of 1987 held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has reassessed the need for coping with modern developments in education, culture and arts.

Subsequently sharp criticism has been levelled at the traditional educational methods in the Kingdom because they rely mainly on lecturing, a method which does not provide the minimum level of knowledge to the children, neither does it give students an incentive to pursue the quest for knowledge through analysis or other means.

British-born Edwina Issa, who has lived in Jordan for many years, specialises in drama in education. She has had a lot of experience in this field through teaching at Jordan's private schools. Now following years of hesitancy, some schools and institutes have started to introduce drama in their curricula and courses.

Edwina Issa represents Jordan in the International Society for Drama in Education which groups representatives of 30 nations. Jordan is the only Arab country affiliated to this society.

Issa speaks about her own experience in using drama in education. Her view is that some people mix up this kind of method in teaching with theatre acting while others define drama as a form of teaching through play. This indeed tends to distort the concept of drama in education, she says.

For Issa drama in education is a set of strategies used to induce thinking in a person and to make him analyse what he sees in a variety of ways. What drama has presented to him is a collection of signs or movements running in harmony with his national culture and habits.

It is rather not possible to transfer, or translate, signs or cultures of other nations in a perfect manner, but drama in education tends to help children discover aspects of other cultures nearer to their own concept of life, according to Issa.

"We are nearing the end of the 20th century and we must make sure that our children will not remain subject

to blind obedience", stresses Issa. "Reform should start with the education system by deleting all those elements that tend to bring up children in a manner that makes them agree to things offered them without any thinking."

Instead, she continues, "one has to develop in the children a sense of judging and evaluating things and situations by themselves."

"Children ought to be helped in this respect. They should be assisted in understanding the meanings of the act in drama, to understand life around them and how to create an imaginary play. Since his birth a child tries to understand his environment and in his mind he tries to re-arrange things and grasp their meanings. In imagining plays, a child is thus trying to create his first drama. Later he searches for values, justice, etc., in his contact with members of the family and in his school life," Issa says.

She notes that modern education methods does not offer ready-made cultural concepts and values but the drama in education plays a big role in imparting these concepts to the children in an indirect manner that requires the children to use their common sense in analysing situations and making their own conclusions.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Today, and in the light of the so-called cultural invasion by "artificial culture", one ought to resort to modern educational methods and techniques which can help children cope with this challenge, which is represented in the omnipresence of technology and the dominant capitalist concept that has turned the world into a mere village controlled from afar.

While our Arab culture is an expression of our life and our faith, we are confronted with an artificial culture whose values are based on non-essential materials and wealth. Hence we fear a horrible cultural future for our children.

The question is: How can drama and theatre help us cope with the contradiction and the conflicting cultures and how can through drama children learn values and real culture?

Our culture should serve as a model to which one can safely resort and through drama we can best suggest to our children ideas, behavioural patterns and forms of

good conduct, according to Issa.

Reflecting on the spread of drama in education, Issa says while admitting that a real change and modern trends must be introduced to the educational system in Jordan, drama is still used by a handful of private schools and reform is progressing very slowly. She believes it is not a matter of admitting that we need drama in education but rather in providing the requirements and in recruiting teachers for this objective, in addition to offering incentives and motives to the instructors and encouraging them to pursue their efforts.

This kind of teaching, she adds, requires a great deal of recruiting and preparation, and also special programmes something which is obviously not possible under the present circumstances in which we see teachers, who are expected to be creative, leading a very poor life.

"We should first provide the teachers with a decent means of living to safeguard their dignity before thinking about changing methods in education," stresses Issa.

In her view, any creative topic requires a great deal of preparation on the part of the teachers who cannot afford the means to do that or have access to the right sources as many spend the afternoon in another job to make both ends meet.

In an age of technology and in view of the hundreds of television channels, children's minds are deeply affected because what they watch is a novelty to their mind, quite different from what they have been taught before. Therefore drama in education ought to be of good quality and we should try our best to present something acceptable to the minds of our children — a substitute to what they see on television — thus helping our children to think for themselves and create their own imaginations.

Issa proposes the following points as basic principles for drama in education:

- 1— Drama in education should reflect our feelings, our traditions and cultures.
- 2— Acting and presentation should enhance the message directed to the targeted audience.
- 3— The signs should be genuine in reflecting the real objectives.
- 4— Drama tales should propose certain themes and concepts similar to those existing in society.

Wings over Jordan

By Judy Leden

We were invited to hang glide in Jordan by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. They covered the costs of fares, freight, accommodation and transport. Citroen JK covered the remaining expenses of hiring a Cosmos microflight, insurance and photography. The expedition was arranged by Yasmin Saudi, a Jordanian student at Imperial College. The rest of the team comprised Ben Ashman as tug pilot, Niall O'Connor, Bill Jonganeel and myself. We were allocated two military personnel to accompany us. This was to stop us inadvertently flying into sensitive areas, or over the Israeli border! The Jordanian Air Force was incredibly helpful. In allowing us to use their immaculate base at Amman Airport to unpack and test our equipment. By aerotowing standards, the airport was enormous. The runway was 3,000 metres long, 50 metres wide and we were given "carte blanche" to fly wherever we wanted!

Amman

Amman was spectacular from the air, surrounded by impressive hills scorched brown by the relentless sun. To the west, the rim of the Rift Valley was visible where it dropped down to the Dead Sea 1,500 metres below.

Bill, Yasmin and Niall were introduced to aerotowing with no problems, enjoying the smooth evening air above Amman. We were bombarded with questions from an ever growing crowd of uniformed spectators, many of them at some in fast jets were fascinated by our portable, foot-launched planes! Ben rose to the occasion, treating the onlookers to a microflight display and orbiting the control tower with permission and wingtip just inches from the windows!

The following day we experienced our only major setback. Ben invited Colonel Saudi for a flight in the microflight. The colonel was a fighter pilot with thousands of hours of experience in jets. As Ben landed with a 15 km/h cross wind, the trike swerved violently from side to side. A wheel, which should have been attached to the undercarriage, came rolling past them. Ben managed to keep the trike the right way up until it finally slid to a halt. The emergency services bolted into action and an ambulance and fire engine were dispatched to the scene, sirens and lights blazing. They looked disappointed to find they were not needed. There was however damage to bolts, plates, one tube and the axle. Ben was whisked into the Military Engineering Department and emerged triumphant two hours later with a wheel off a luggage trailer which fitted perfectly!

Petra

The next day we left for Petra, two vehicles for the four hour journey, while Ben flew the trike and arrived at the luxurious Petra Forum Hotel, to find the microflight parked in front and Ben enjoying a hero's reception after landing in the tiny hotel car park.

Petra means "rock" and it is surrounded by massive, weird shaped rocks which appear impenetrable. The only entrance is through the narrowest of gorges, a kilometre long, the sides of which are russet-red and 100 metres high. At the end of the cleft is the spectacular light of the Treasury-tomb of a Nabataean king from the 1st century B.C. Immaculately preserved, the rose-red mausoleum towers 45 metres high and 30 metres wide, carved out of the cliff.

There was one acceptable landing place. It was in the middle of the city, at the bottom of the valley and it was light! Bordered on one side by a 300 metres high cliff with a colonnade of tombs at the base, and on all other sides by steep boulder-strewn slopes, we would have to land on a track in between.

There was a small road on the mountainside above Petra which was suitable for aerotow. So we rigged the gliders while the entire police force (4 officers) stopped traffic and kept the crowds back. Once a herd of goats

had been shooed off the road, I was able to launch. It was hard to keep my eyes on the tug as the scenery unfolded below. I released 1,000 metres above the city and headed along the western wall of the gorge. The amphitheatre stage was brightly lit by the setting sun and two camels sauntered down the track. The scale of the place was breathtaking with tombs and caves visible at the base of every gully and cliff face.

The following day we found a place to foot launch on a mountain above the city. As we rigged, some local children arrived with a jug of mint tea for us — a typical gesture of Jordanian hospitality. I landed on the plateau behind Petra and was soon surrounded by Bedouin tribespeople who took me to their tent and gave me tea amidst the pungent smell of goats hair blankets and smoke from the open fire.

Wadi Rum

We reluctantly left the unique beauty of Petra and drove to Wadi Rum, favourite place of Lawrence of Arabia, and location of the film of his life. Ben and Yasmin flew the trike. They had to land at the airstrip on the King's Highway to refuel. The runway was actually a widened section of the motorway and the police had diverted all the traffic off the road and on to a desert track so that the microflight could land!

The Rift Valley escarpment fell away into the painted southern desert. The red rocks of the highlands had been eroded into giant columns that stained the desert sands multiple shades of ochre and red. Across these, the thermal winds had dropped white splashes of Arabian sands, painting a surreal canvas below.

We woke at dawn relieved to find a light breeze had replaced the howling sand storms of the previous afternoon. Ben towed us up into the crisp morning sky. The vast and silent walls of rock were not solid, but eroded into separated blocks, like buildings along a street. During the day conditions grew extreme. The combination of the desert heat, baking rock faces and strong winds caused violent sandstorms. We therefore restricted our flying to mornings and evenings, spending the rest of the day riding camels, walking and climbing in the mountains.

The following morning, I hooked on the towline, blissfully unaware of what Ben had in store. As soon as we had left the ground, he pointed the tug at a fissure which slashed straight through a mountain. It was 70 metres wide and 1,000 metres deep and the feeling of vertigo increased as we approached. As we entered it, the abyss below seemed bottomless and my grip on the bar was white-knuckled until we emerged into the sunshine on the far side.

Dead Sea

Our next destination was the Dead Sea. Ben flew directly to Mazara across the sun-baked hills with nowhere to land for 60 kilometres. He landed in the centre of town and was promptly arrested. But when they realised he was a tourist he was treated to mint tea and lunch.

One of my goals for the expedition was to make the lowest documented flight on the hang-glider. Barograph set, I lined up behind the trike on the main road in front of the police station. They stopped the traffic and Ben towed me to the shore of the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth. I released the line and floated down slowly in the buoyant air. The barograph read 293 metres below sea level as I made my final approach on to the beach. The wing needed only half the normal effort to flare in the dense air.

The Dead Sea was as calm as a mill pond. Looking across the turquoise, shimmering water and yellow sandbars into Israel, it was hard to believe the political turmoil taking place in this area. The surrounding hills seemed so tranquil on both sides of the water.



The microflight tows a glider over Wadi Rum

Jerash

We packed up our gear once more and headed for Jerash, an extraordinary well preserved Roman city, north of Amman. The ruins made by the wheels of Roman chariots still dent the flagstones. The amphitheatre seats 3,000 and is still used for the annual Jerash Festival.

The next morning we found a tarmac road just above the city and rigged the gliders. The early morning peace was soon broken by the ever increasing number of people who gathered to watch our travelling circus. The air was turbulent as we towed up over the city. From above, Jerash looked quite different. The columns appeared so small that what really stood out was the perfect geometric pattern of the streets.

We loaded for the return journey to Amman. I flew the microflight back, watching the transition from the fertile green hills of Gilead to the brown, arid slopes surrounding Amman. I towed Niall and Bill high over the city that evening, landing with the dazzle of three kilometres of runway lights below.

The next day, Bill, Niall and Yasmin flew at Mt Nebo where Moses is buried. It is on the western edge of the plateau overlooking the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea. The strong wind eventually dropped to allow them to launch, but quickly faded to nothing, curtailing their flying.

On our last day, we met the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities to report on our trip. We also met His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, Patron of our expedition. A meeting was arranged for that afternoon with King Hussein. I had wanted to meet him for a long time as his enthusiasm for aviation is legendary. Wearing our Sunday best, we were escorted to the Royal Squadron. The King arrived, all smiles, and made us very welcome. He was fascinated by our expedition and was delighted that we had enjoyed his country so much. He gave us each a watch with the royal emblem and wished us well.

All that remained was to pack the hang gliders into boxes and return home. Two weeks had passed so quickly and we had merely scratched the surface of this beautiful country. There was so much more to see, so much more flying to do! There are few countries in the world where pilots would be encouraged to fly amongst the national monuments and parks, where the police even turn out to help! It was a privilege to fly in Jordan.

The article is reprinted from the French magazine Cross Country.

BOOK REVIEW

Haj Amin — a Palestinian leader

The Grand Mufti: Haj Amin Al Hussein, Founder of the Palestinian National Movement (London, Frank Cass Ltd., 1993, 235pp.)

By Zvi Elpeleg

This book is a thoughtful, though at times impressionistic and rather narrative, analysis of the political career of Haj Amin Al Hussein which spanned from the early 1930s until his death in 1974. In a historical study, Elpeleg (a former military governor of many areas in the occupied Arab territories and currently a research associate at the Dayan Centre, Tel Aviv University), examines the involvement of Amin Al Hussein in Palestinian and regional politics.

In the first chapter, the author exposes the familial and clanish rivalries that characterised Palestinians' national struggle in the face of the Jewish immigration to Palestine which was conducted under the patronage of the British colonial authority. He also examines how Amin Al Hussein exploited and manipulated domestic, Arab and international events to serve the Palestinian cause while simultaneously advancing his personal ambitions and ensuring the hegemony of the Husseinis over Palestinian clans.

In the second chapter, the author, among other things, examines Hussein's involvement in Iraq in the late thirties and his controversial relationship with the Nazis and fascists in Germany and Italy. In studying this period (especially Haj Amin's alleged part in the Final Solution), the author is markedly lucid and factual. However, because of the selectivity in highlighting certain historical incidents to the exclusion of others, one cannot help feeling that Haj Amin's impact on the course of Palestinian and Arab history during that period is rather overstated. This is probably due to the fact that the author is using history to underpin the major theme of his book—namely, that his protagonist (Haj Amin Al Hussein) was the central navigator of Palestinian destiny.

In the third and fourth chapters the author highlights the Arab involvement in the Palestinian question, where Haj Amin's maximalist approach and his alignment with the Arab rejectionist camp (especially with Qassem of Iraq and Nasser of Egypt), is manifest. Contrary, however, to what may appear in this chapter, Hussein's intransigence during this formative period of Palestinian national struggle is probably marked by egotism rather than genuine concern for the welfare of the Palestinians. The involvement in the "All-Palestine Government" which was established in Gaza in 1948 against the sincere advice of many Arab leaders together with his confrontation with the late King Abdullah of Jordan who pursued more realistic policies, is a testimony to Haj Amin's relentless pursuit of authority, come what may. Additionally, contrary to the picture drawn by the author, the unification of the West Bank with Jordan can, in historical perspective, be indeed seen as a reflection of the wishes of the majority of the Palestinians, which considered King Abdullah as a saviour of Palestine. The mentioning of the active involvement of many radical Palestinians (i.e.: Ba'athists, Communists, pan-Arabists, etc.) in the various pro-unity popular conferences that took place in many cities in the West Bank prior to unification, is conspicuously absent from the author's account.

In the fifth chapter, the decline of the status of Haj Amin (especially after the establishment of the PLO under the chairmanship of Ahmad Shuqairy in 1964), is examined in more details. The excluded and embittered Haj Amin sought to align himself with almost whoever opposed that organisation. However, the establishment of the PLO not only further marginalised his role, it also completely hijacked initiative from him. Eventually, Haj Amin chose to devote more time to writing his memoirs.

Although the book is on the whole properly researched and presented, the author on few occasions oversteps the boundary of biographical objectivity by making gratuitous snipes and putting forward allegations not substantiated by empirical evidence. This is manifest in the rather unbalanced manner in which he examines the 1970-71 clashes between the Jordanian army and factions of the PLO. The author, contrary to historical and academic convention, glibly (if rather not at all not disinterestedly) claims that the Jordanian regime "erased the name of Palestine from the map; and... attached the Palestinian identity" (p. 170).

Amin Al Hussein is rightly credited with influencing the evolution of Palestinians' "right to return" (Haq Al Awdah), and bringing more Islamic involvement in the Palestinian issue through the various Islamic summits and conferences that he had chaired and convened. But, it is, however, grossly inaccurate to view him as the founder of the Palestinian national movement, for before the 1936 revolt large numbers of Palestinians, rightly or wrongly, considered Haj Amin to be pro-British because of his reluctance to give his public support to the nationalist camp. Furthermore, until the consolidation of the PLO there was never a central Palestinian movement which collectively embraced Palestinian resistance (which was traditionally factionalised and ridden with all sorts of ideological and personal conflicts). Needless to say, the secularisation of Palestinian resistance, together with its subjugation to the vicissitudes of inter-Arab rivalries curtailed, if not trivialised, the roles played by traditional leaders like that of Haj Amin.

Prof. Zvi Elpeleg

Thoughts for this week

All sins are attempts to fill voids — Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943)

The fear of life is the favourite disease of the 20th century — William Lyon Phelps, American educator and journalist (1865-1943)

Wars without tears

By Jean-Claude Elias

The struggle between the giant software houses to win the world market looks more like a war than a fight. It even bears some similarities with the current multi-million dollars advertisement war between the two, well known soft drink makers.

The long lasting battle Microsoft and WordPerfect have been fighting for the winning Windows-based word processing programme has just entered a new phase. Both companies are announcing a new release of their best selling programmes, WordPerfect by the company bearing the same name as its programme and Word by Microsoft.

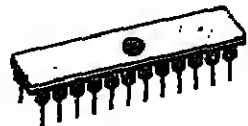
Surprisingly both new releases have the same version number-6. Though very aggressive, the confrontation is not a bloody one. Both software designers have somehow acknowledged each other's strength and have made this admission public.

WordPerfect implicitly recognised the power of Microsoft system when they launched their Windows-based version of WordPerfect. Microsoft, on the other hand, welcomed WordPerfect users and offered them a very intelligent, friendly way to learn Word via WordPerfect commands. It sounds unbelievable but it's true.

Apparently, and from the user's point of view at least, all seems calm, positive and enjoyable. Almost friendly. The obvious aim of each contender however, is to make word processing users switch to their respective programme and throw the other out of the race.

Official figures concerning the percentage of users of Word versus those of WordPerfect are not available. Nevertheless, reports from specialised U.S. and British magazines make it reasonable to estimate that both software packages have an equal share of the processing world market and that together, they control more than

chip talk



90 per cent of it. A quick survey of the trend in Jordan confirms the above.

In a normal situation, the consumer would be the clear winner of any competitive situation, for he ends up with a better and cheaper product. It might not be the case when it comes to Word and WordPerfect.

In order to try and win the users' support and endorsement, the programmes, designers, unable to really improve on the basic characteristics of the existing versions of the software, are stuffing, cramming the packages with countless, often unnecessary features. The result is programmes that are long to install, occupy a lot of disk space, become slower and more difficult to use.

Even with the current releases of Word and WordPerfect, I have not met someone, professionals included, who could use 60 or 70 per cent of the programmes. Software superiority should not be based on the number of the proposed feature but rather on their quality and importance. Experienced operators would gladly sacrifice a given function if to use it once a year only, while it would occupy additional disk space, reduce the programme overall performance and congest the screen.

The final verdict, as always, will come from the users feedback, even if it will take some time.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

AMAZING FACTS

- * In the tropical zones there are bats the size of cats which have 3-foot wings and live on fruits.
- * A Californian cattleman accidentally discovered gold when he stumbled down during a cattle chase.
- * Two islands in the world carry the name "Christmas". One in the Indian Ocean, the other in the Pacific. The sailors exploring the region for the first time on Christmas Day gave both islands the new name.
- * A banana doesn't turn black after peeling and immersing it in lemon juice.
- * During the Crusades, the King of France, Philip II, stopped anyone, whose rank was below a knight, to practise playing dice.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

AT THE BARBER'S

- I wish to have my hair cut. Ureed ann akoss shaari.
- How do you like to have it cut? Kaifa tureed ann takossoh?
- Not too short. Laysa kaseeran jiddan.
- Longer at the back than in front. Minal khalf atwal minal amam.
- I want to be shaved too. Ureed ann shlik daql.
- Do you like to shampoo your hair? Hal tawad ann taghsil shaarak?
- Not today. Laysa hazal youm.
- Do you like lotions? Hal tohib al-mahaleel al-otriya?
- I've tried many, but they haven't done me any good at all. Lakad jarabt al-kathir walakin naha lam tofidni itla-kan.
- May I trim your moustache? Hal lee ann oshaz'zib shawarbak?
- Yes, please. Na'am min fad'lak.

HUMOUR

WIFE: "What would you do if somebody tries to kiss you?"

SHE: "I scream and ask for help."

HE: "Suppose I tried to do so now. How do you react?"

SHE: "What a pity! I've got a hoarse voice."

Two pretty girls were roaming in a Broadway district.

A young sailor was following them everywhere.

One of the girls turned around and said in anger:

"What are you doing? You've got two options: Either stop following us or get back with you another sailor."

WIFE: "You always adhere to your points of view and never listen to anybody's advice."

HUSBAND: "You've to thank God. Had I listened to the people's advice, I'd have never married you."

FRIEND: "Does your wife clean your suit every day?"

HUSBAND: "No, she only cleans the pockets!"

ARABIC NAMES & THEIR MEANINGS

SAMI (mas.): High, sublime, exalted, august. SAMIA (fem.)

SAHI: Inattentive; absent-minded.

SATTAR: The veiler, the coverer (attribute to God).

SAHAAB (fem.): Clouds.

SAHAR: Time before daybreak (dawn); early morning.

SIRAJ (mas.): Lantern; light; sun.

SIRHAN (mas.): The lion, wolf; mid of basin.

SAID (mas.): Happy, joyous, blissful.

SAUD (mas.): Ten stars; blessing.

SALAMA (mas.): Safety; free from defects. SALLAMA (fem.)

SULTAN (mas.): King, authority, power; legitimization.

SULTANA (fem.)

SUHAIL (mas.): Canopus. SUHAILA (fem.)

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

BOYCOTTING

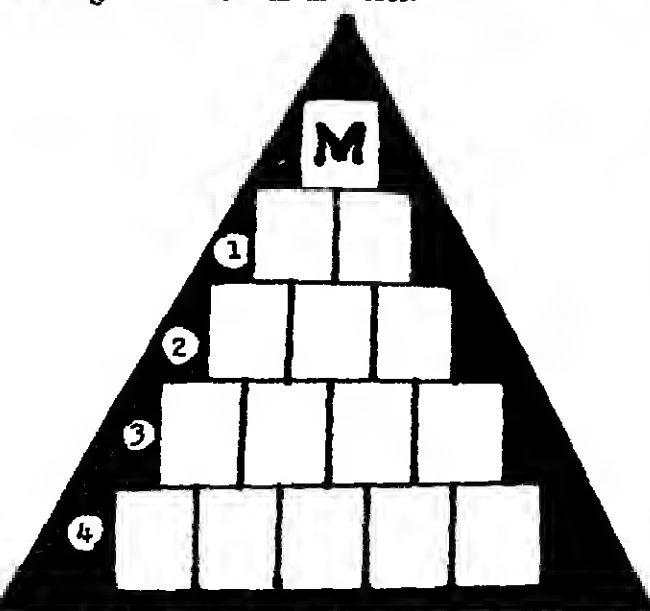
BOYCOTTING means social and commercial isolation exercised by one group against another. It may be primary or secondary. A primary boycott occurs when, for example, a labour union urges the members and supporters not to buy goods produced by a company against which it is striking. A secondary boycott is directed at a third party, e.g., a retail chain that stocks the company's products, and is illegal under U.S. labour laws.

The term was coined when Capt. Charles Boycott, land agent to Lord Erne in County Mayo, Ireland, was ostracised by his victims. Having incurred the hostility of the Land League in 1880 by a number of evictions, he was made the victim of an organised conspiracy to prevent him from making any purchases, even the necessities of life, from the people of the district. The same tactics were widely employed by the Land League during 1880 and 1881.

PUZZLES

LETTERS TRIANGLE

In letters triangle you add only a letter to the one at the top to make a meaningful word and then add another new letter to the second row apart from the letters of the first row to produce a word that has also a meaning. You continue doing this with the third and fourth rows. You can insert the letters in each row provided that all the words begin with the letter "M" and give the desired meaning as indicated in the clues.



CLUES

1. Short for mother.
2. Mr. Dick doesn't work but spends time at social gatherings. He is a about town.
3. Long hair on the back of a horse's neck.
4. A 19th century, French painter.

The house that Jack built

By E. Yaghi

This is the house that Jack built all crooked and nice. Funny thing about it though, not one column stands in line with the one below it and to make matters worse, the last floor completely lacks any columns at all. Well, Jack's house certainly is an eyesore, not to mention that it resembles the ancient Tower of Babel in its endeavour to reach the heavens by having been built one crooked floor on top of the other until one can hardly see the end of it. It's kind of like the famous leaning Tower of Pisa with the exception that that famous landmark is currently undergoing repairs so that it won't collapse on innocent tourists.

Not too far away, on the mountain circle, those buildings which are situated on the circle's main streets had to not only been licensed but underwent thorough inspections to ensure that not one tiny little centimetre encroached on government or private property which is all fair and well and as it should be even though licensing for those buildings cost their owners up to and sometimes more than JD 10,000 and any centimetre that wasn't legally accounted for was thoroughly fined bringing then the cost of the license sometimes up to more than JD 15,000.

But, Jack's house escaped inspection somehow to the delight of Jack and his family. Perhaps because it was on a side street and inspectors may have trouble winding their paths to fine or even think to license such a disaster. Poor renters wear holes in their shoes just to find such a crooked house as Jack's. Yet, once in, many seem to experience claustrophobia and vertigo due to tight spaces and high narrow stairs that aim for the stars. Jack never puts a limit on how many floors he should build. Why should he? His whole building is illegal anyway so it's a free-for-all.

One day, a tenant's stove caught on fire. Smoke billowed out of his fourth floor window and panicky renters stampeded towards the nearest exit. Luckily, the tenant was clever enough to shut off the gas connected to the stove, but nevertheless, a lot of black smoke filled Jack's crooked house and those poor victims that lived there shuddered to think what might have happened if the fire, had been worse for escape became virtually impossible. Besides, the crooked building shut the little narrow street that led to it. Hence making impossible an outlet of escape or easy access for firefighters from that passageway.

Jack is very proud of his house even though it's crooked, an eyesore, resembles the leaning Tower of Pisa and is a hazard to its tenants as well as passersby. No matter to the owner however, for his main concern is to collect rent and plan on building future floors. At this minute, a new floor is being constructed without any sort of foundation. Neighbours could swear that the breeze blocks are uneven and not one window is in line with the one below it, but hey, no problem for the landlord, because he's not worried and he's happy. He's the proud owner of the house that Jack built. Soon, he is planning to get one of his disreputable sons married and place him in his penthouse where he will be sure to live happily ever after.

Hidden in secret alleyways and narrow streets to the blissful innocence of building inspectors, there are hundreds of houses like the one that Jack built. But to say the least, they are very dangerous and threatening to not only those inhabitants living within, but to all who happen to be in their vicinity. And certainly those laws that were passed for all should be meant and applied to all whether rich or not so rich and whether dwellings are situated on a main street or secluded byways.

The predicament of the professional

Amateurism and professionalism in the writings of Edward W. Said

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Taking the long view, a reader of Edward W. Said will see just how many of the recurrent stress-points in his writing address the art of being general. Over and over again we find him talking about the virtues of the roving intelligence, the need for comparatist studies, the totality that is not "totalising," and the enquiry that is free.

Said complains that the obsession with "professionalism" — which he defines to be finding and keeping a knowledge slot in an overpopulated field — is apt to turn lively undergraduates into timid graduate students "afraid of stepping outside the consensus." He offers amateurism instead: "The original sense of loving things and doing them because you're curious about them, not because you have to."

The contention here is to make prominent the "professionalism versus amateurism" discourse in Said's writing. That is, "thinking of ones work as something one does for a living, between the hours of nine and five with 'one eye' on the clock, and another on what is considered to be proper professional behaviour — not rocking the boat, not straying outside the accepted paradigms or limits, making oneself marketable and above all presentable, hence uncontroversial and unpolitical and objective "versus" the desire to be moved not by profit or reward but by love for and unquenchable interest in the larger picture, in making connections across lines and barriers, in refusing to be tied down to a speciality, in caring for ideas and values despite the restrictions of a profession."

Said defines "specialisation" as "the limitation to a relatively narrow area of knowledge: Losing sight of anything outside one's immediate field: It kills the sense

of excitement and discovery. In the end, giving up to specialisation is laziness; doing what others tell you is always done because that is your speciality after all."

"Generalism," as a mode of intellectual conduct, is as much an epistemological conviction as a way of mattering publicly. Said believes in the amateur, the free-thinker interested in things for their own sake rather than for the pursuit of a career. Of course, the intellectual courts an opposite peril — "that of being so intellectually free, so rootless that he becomes nothing more than a meandering dilettante. An obvious danger is the intellectual becoming a kind of tourist through life, recirculating clichés."

In the fourth lecture of his Reith Lectures series, entitled Professionals and Amateurs, Said emphasises that "the amateur is someone who considers that to be a thinking and concerned member of a society one is entitled to raise moral issues at the heart of even the most technical and professionalised activity as it involve one's country and its mode of interacting with its citizens as well as other societies. The amateur can enter and transform the merely professional routine most of us go through into something much more lively and radical; instead of doing what one is supposed to do one can ask why one does it, who benefits from it, how can it reconnect with a personal project and original thought." (This lecture was broadcast on BBC's Radio 4 on July 14, 1993).

The problem for the modern intellectual is to try to deal with the impingements of modern professionalisation, not by pretending that they are not there or denying their influence, but by representing a different set of values and prerogatives. These, Said collects under the name of amateurism, literally, an activity that is fuelled by care and affection rather than by profit and selfish, narrow specialisation.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 13

8:30 Flesh And Blood

9:10 Da Beat's On

Mohannad Al Jazireh presents the latest on the pop music charts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Off Beat

Starring: Judge Reinhold and Meg Tilly

Friday, Jan. 14

8:30 Walter And Emily

9:10 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 The River Kings

Sean enjoys his work on board Jack's boat, but it is off board where his life changes.

11:10 Yes Minister

Saturday, Jan. 15

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Frank meets a beautiful woman and he tries to get her into The Sicily Knights Club, whose president is his brother Dominique.

9:10 The Campbells

Lady Helen's Love

An unexpected accident to a fellow traveller to Cana-

da compels Dr. James to discontinue his trip to treat the injured.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Relentless Mind Of A Killer

Starring: Carlo Ipisto, Claudia Christian and Tim Matheson

Pete Hellman is a psychiatrist whose career involves him in treating criminal women in jail. During his treatments his personal life gets caught in a web of conspiracies and killings.

Sunday, Jan. 16

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Bill Cosby hosts this entertaining show, where he gives away the grand prize of \$10,000 to the winning couple.

9:10 Jordanesque

In part three of this documentary, we look back into history and study the peoples that inhabited the lands in the past and the powers that governed them.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Island Son

Fathers And Sons

Old Frank is admitted to hospital and Dr. Daniel approaches his son, Sam, to take a more serious look at his life.

11:10 The Golden Palace

Monday, Jan. 17

8:30 The Torkelsons

Educating Millicent

In appreciation of their mothers staying at home, and not finishing her high school studies, the Torkelson kids come up with a great idea.

9:10 Thirtysomething

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — A Piano For Mrs. Gimino

Starring: Bette Davis

Abandoned by her children, and after years spent in a home for the old, an old woman finds solace and happiness in the company of a clarinet player.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

8:30 The Royal Family

Talking Baseball

Nobody can beat the Grandfather in talking about Baseball. He is not only an expert on the subject but was one of the very best players.

9:10 Mann and Machine

Torch Song

10:00 News In English

Wednesday, Jan. 19

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Henry finds out that it was not a good idea for him to have asked his children to attend the recording of his "will" on a video tape.

9:10 Documentary — 2048 A.D.: The Ozone Alarm

The world is facing the threat represented by the ozone hole that is steadily getting bigger and thinner. Many monitoring stations in the West are studying the causes and effects.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Day One

Following Germany's surrender after World War II, America receives its secret files and plans on the nuclear bomb and accelerates its own experiments that killed and maimed thousands of innocent people.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Day One



Timothy Dalton and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer pose for cameras before starting on the new eight-hour series *Scarlett* based on Alexandra Ripley's bestselling sequel to *Gone With The Wind* (AFP photo)

Cameras start rolling on *Gone With The Wind* sequel

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

LONDON — The most tempestuous lovers in cinema history got together again as filming started on the long-awaited sequel to *Gone With The Wind*.

But the two British actors stepping into the shoes of Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler were keeping any passionate clutches for the screen — and even then their love scenes are likely to be toned down for family television audiences.

"It is a very sexual relationship so we do have sex scenes. They are updated for a 1990s audience but there are limitations because of the television audience," said Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, the English actress who plays a thirty-something Scarlett battling to restore her reputation.

Ms. Whalley-Kilmer and the current James Bond star Timothy Dalton confessed to some trepidation about following in the footsteps of Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable for what producers say is the most expensive ever television mini-series.

"I was nervous but it's a wonderful role and I would be crazy if I didn't do it," Ms. Whalley-Kilmer, 31, told a news conference during a break in rehearsals.

"I'm not being asked to copy Vivien Leigh who is incidentally one of my idols — I think she's just glorious," added the actress, best known for playing Christine Keeler in the 1969 film *Scandal* about a call girl who brought down a British government minister in the 1963 Profumo sex scandal.

Dalton, sporting a butler-type moustache, added: "It is quite a task but we've got a damn good script. I don't

want to copy Gable."

The \$40-million eight-hour series *Scarlett*, based on the best-selling sequel written by Alexandra Ripley, will be filmed in Britain, Ireland and the United States and is set to hit television screens in 40 nations in November 1994.

The relatively unknown Whalley-Kilmer, with her velvety brown eyes, beat Julia Roberts, Demi Moore and Nicole Kidman to win the part.

Hollywood actress Ann-Margret plays a local madam. British veteran John Gielgud plays Scarlett's grandfather as the southern Belle returns to Ireland to look for her roots and win back the man who stormed out with the line: "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn."

Executive producer Robert Halmi defended his decision to resolve one of

the most famous screen cliff-hangers.

"This is not a remake of *Gone With The Wind*. It ended with the quote 'tomorrow is another day' — I'm doing tomorrow," he said.

"*Gone With The Wind* was an unsolved ending and we've resolved it. These two people will finally get together after eight hours of television.

Halmi, head of an international consortium grouping U.S., German and Italian television companies, said he had already spent as much money as original producer David Selznick had in making the 1939 film before the first day's shooting had begun.

"His original budget was \$2 million but he went over and spent \$4 million. I have already spent that," Halmi said.



Tom Hanks (right) and Robert Loggia in a scene from the movie *Big*

Tom Hanks takes giant acting leap in latest role

By Jim Loney
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Tom Hanks, the comedic actor who played the man-child in *Big*, the mermaid-lover in *Splash* and the shy widower in *Sleepless in Seattle*, dances cheek-to-cheek with a male lover in his latest film.

Radical image change? Hanks, the childish charmer who seemed so in-character as a boy-in-a-man's-body in *Big* (1988) — a role for which he won his first Oscar nomination — takes a giant leap as a dramatic actor in *Philadelphia*, the fictional tale of a gay lawyer who sues his former employers for firing him because he has AIDS.

Philadelphia, the \$25 million Tri-Star Production that represents Hollywood's first real attempt to address the AIDS crisis, made its limited debut in Los Angeles, New York and Toronto on Dec. 22 and hits screens nationwide on Jan. 14.

Movie-goers accustomed to seeing Hanks gazing wistfully at Meg Ryan in *Sleepless* or cuddling with Darryl Hannah in *Splash* may be in for a sharp surprise as his character, Andrew Beckett, shares a kiss or slow-dances with long-time lover Miguel, played by Antonio Banderas.

"That's probably going to make people in Dubuque (Iowa) go 'oh, no, they're dancing together, oh my God,'" Hanks says with a chuckle.

Philadelphia, directed by Jonathan Demme and written by Ron Nyswaner, is a thoughtful exploration of the prejudices surrounding the AIDS epidemic wrapped around one man's battle against the injustice of a wrongful dismissal because of his disease.

"It's really about how we treat each other," the 37-year-old Hanks said in a recent interview with Reuters. "You end up taking that home. My horizons were expanded by having been involved in this movie."

"It didn't make me examine anything about my own sexual proclivities or sexuality," said Hanks, who in 1988 married for the second time, to actress Rita Wilson. "It made me think about whatever judgments I placed on other people."

Hanks was not the unfettered choice for the lead, producer Ed Saxon says. Daniel Day-Lewis was first to come to mind during casting.

Yet in this case, said Saxon, second turned out to be best. "You can't imagine anyone else in the part."

Hanks said at one time in his career, the role of Joe Miller (Denzel Washing-

ton), an ambulance-chasing attorney who gets the film's funny lines, would have been a natural for him. But when he read the script, he wanted to be Andrew Beckett.

"I am a selfish actor, and to be able to work with Jonathan and Denzel in this movie that obviously is going to be perceived as some sort of an event... I wanted to have the best part in it," he said.

For Hanks, it was a chance to confront some of his own preconceptions about AIDS and its victims as well as to take on a new challenge as an actor.

He admits to a "strange, mercenary kind of feeling" through his research for the role, which included long discussions with gay men suffering with AIDS.

"This wasn't just learning how to ride a horse because I'm gonna play a cowboy. This was something substantially different," he said. "It's a very, very curious position to find oneself in. It was almost a peace that I had to make individually with the whole process."

Hanks goes through a remarkable metamorphosis during the movie, from a robust legal eagle to a gaunt, grey-haired AIDS sufferer with lesions on his face and body who collapses during one climactic moment. He lost 35 pounds (16 kg) for the transformation.

Hanks says although he's not sure he suffered from "survivor's guilt" — the frequent feeling of gay men who have lost loved ones to AIDS and yet are not themselves afflicted — he admits to struggling with the fantasy/reality of the movie-making. He was able to wash off the makeup.

"I'd come out of the shower in the morning and I'd see my pelvic bone sticking out," he recalls. "And I thought, 'I'm knocking myself out trying to get this way and there's guys, men and women, who can't stop this from happening to them right now.'"

"It's a surreal situation to be in."

Did Hanks fear the image of gay AIDS sufferers would stick — and perhaps cost him future roles?

"I don't think there's any stigma one way or the other. It's not a big deal. And if it is to somebody, well, they can go screw themselves," he said.

And of the intimate moments with Antonio Banderas?

"Let me tell you. To be able to dance with Antonio Banderas, I am the envy of, I understand, 95 per cent of the women in the world... and about 22 per cent of the men," he said, laughing.

"I was getting slaps on the back from both sides."

Barbra Streisand returns to public concert after 27 years

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If she had tomorrow and never shed her face again, she would become more famous. There would be tours about sightings, tips about her private life, talk about comeback albums rivaling the excitement of all those supposed reunions.

But don't worry: Barbra Streisand has never really been to be alone. She is a business notorious superlatives; no one else: Oscar, Emmy, Grammy, Golden Globe. Not to mention 37 gold albums, 21 platinum and seven multiplatinum.

At the ambition and personification that began in a Brooklyn flat remains unmet for the 51-year-old actress-director.

After 27 years of refraining from concert appearances in public, she performed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 at the 15,000-seat Grand Theatre of the New M Grand in Las Vegas.

matemat at as much as \$10 million per night.

This month she donated her 15-acre (6-hectare) Malibu showplace, valued at \$15 million, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The conservation group plans to use the property and its five houses as an environmental research complex.

Her art-deco objects, collected lovingly for 30 years and valued at \$4 million, will be auctioned at Christie's in New York on March 3-4. She explained on a segment of TV's "20/20" that she is going through a period of shedding, of letting go of a lot of things: Fears, houses, objects, material possessions.

This year Streisand has shed her reclusive habits, making appearances for women candidates for U.S. senator from California, President Bill Clinton's inauguration, AIDS projects Los Angeles and David Dinkins' unsuccessful campaign for re-election as New York City mayor. She even turned up at Wimbledon to root for new tennis friend Andre Agassi. (He lost).

Her agreement to sing in Las Vegas amazed many

longtime Streisand watchers, who believed she would never again face a public audience.

Two years ago she told the Associated Press: "I don't really like performing. Only when I was 18-19 years old did I like it. After that I got real scared, shy. I just didn't feel good anymore. I got a notion in my head that I would forget the words. And then I forgot the words. I wasn't enjoying it. It was too frightening for me."

Close friends believe she also was concerned for her personal safety. A new biography, *Her Name Is Barbra* by Randall Riese, claims the singer received a death threat before her historic concert in New York's Central Park in 1967.

He quotes the TV show's director, Bob Scheerer: "She was terrified that the spotlight would make her a target for a crazy in the audience."

Two weeks later, Riese says, a possible assailant with a .45 was arrested before a Streisand concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Her fears may have been reinforced by the 1980 assassination of John Lennon.

friends say. The relentless pursuit of perfection has marked her career, leaving critics awed and co-workers often exasperated.

On her first movie, *Funny Girl*, Streisand challenged three-time Academy-Award winner William Wyler, a director who had tamed Bette Davis. Even then, she knew what was good for Streisand. "She is obsessed with perfection," said former Streisand agent Irv Arthur, "and that may be her greatest drawback. Bill [Wyler] has won but she's still at the top."

Her detractors claim indecisiveness has limited Streisand's output (she has made three movies in 10 years). Some co-workers become exasperated by her constant questioning; one longtime associate quit on doctor's orders.

Co-stars Walter Matthau (Hello, Dolly) and Robert Redford (The Way We Were) are not among her fans.

Yet others, such as Nick Nolte (The Prince of Tides), are devoted to her. Even Wyler ended up an admirer after *Funny Girl*.

She was born Barbara Joan Streisand in Brooklyn on April 24, 1942. She never knew her father, a high school teacher who died of a cerebral hemorrhage at 35 when his daughter was 19 months old. Her mother married a salesman who repeatedly berated Barbara as ugly and untalented. In his book, Riese quotes a former neighbor who said the stepfather hit the girl "at least once or twice."

That prompted Streisand's publicist, Dick Guttman, to reply that although she was "the object of an abusive person... she never physically abused her."

In a 1964 interview with the AP, Streisand recalled her childhood: "I never took part in school activities or anything. I was never asked out to any of the proms, and I never had a date for New Year's Eve. I was pretty much a loner. I never needed anyone, really."

She defied her stepfather and others who found her lonely. She declared herself beautiful, dressed in second-hand tacky and shortened her name "I don't care what you write



Barbra Streisand

about me," she later told interviewers. "Just be sure you spell my name wrong."

She began singing at amateur nights, dramatizing every song "I'm an actress who sings."

Former agent Irvin Arthur remembers first hearing Streisand at a Greenwich Village joint, The Lion, where she had won an amateur contest. "I heard a voice that was unique and different; it sent shivers up my spine. She sang Happy Days as no one had ever heard it before."

He persuaded his agency to sign her.

Hollywood turns to fiction for 1993 material

Michael J. Bandler

SHINGTON — Hollywood turned to the pages of fiction as source material for some of the most fully realized, and most meaningful, movies of 1993.

At the end of the year, creative screenwriters explored a number of gritty, somber themes — the Holocaust, AIDS pandemic and Vietnam — that not normal fare for the day season.

Steven Spielberg, director of such past hit films as *E.T.* and *The Color Purple*, adapted two major 1993 movies based on novels. *Jurassic Park*, an adventure centering on the theme of the dinosaur era in modern age, has in less than six months produced the highest gross revenues, worldwide, in the history of the industry. The film was adapted from the novel of the same name by Michael Crichton.

The second Spielberg movie, *Schindler's List*, released at year's end, was a work of art and history drawn from the book written by Thomas Keneally, an Australian.

Keneally's novel moving detailed events in the life of an actual German Nazi pathologist, Oskar Schindler — businessman, woman-

niser and, eventually, shrewd saviour of more than 1,000 imperiled people who, in the 1940's, eluded certain death at the extermination camp in Auschwitz, Poland. Screenwriter Steven Zaillian's script hewed closely to the original story, and the film was shot in black and white to add an image of authenticity. Spielberg wrestled with the arduous project for more than a decade before the movie, starring Liam Neeson and Ben Kingsley, opened to widespread acclaim.

Director Martin Scorsese seemed in his element in the evocative screen adaptation (with writer Jay Cocks) of Edith Wharton's novel *The Age of Innocence*. Costarring Daniel Day-Lewis and Michelle Pfeiffer, the film radiated as it reflected on the conduct and the trapings of New York City's high society of the 1870s. The film was a major departure for Scorsese, whose work often has focused on the contemporary Italian-American community in New York.

Robert Altman, who depicted alienation and black humour in such films as *Nashville*, and *M-A-S-H*, turned to the fiction of Raymond Carver for his film *Short Cuts*. Drawing on nine Carver stories and

one prose poem, Altman (in collaboration with writer Frank Barhydt) created a collage of unrelated situations that somehow, tentatively, fuse on celluloid. Sexually, socially, psychologically, the two dozen or so characters are seen struggling desperately to bring some order to their lives.

Amy Tan transposed her engrossing and often painful *The Joy Luck Club* to the screen in collaboration with co-screenwriter Ron Bass and Chinese-American director Wayne Wang. With a strong ensemble of Asian-American actors — veterans as well as newcomers — it hauntingly evoked a history and nearly a century's experience of Chinese immigration to America.

Dark as this film frequently appeared as events unfolded, it was much more engaging and affectionate than *Heaven and Earth*, another movie rooted in Asia. In this adaptation of two memoirs by Le Ly Hayslip, director Oliver Stone chronicles the history of Vietnam over 30 years — and the American role within it. He does so in anguished, angry terms which resemble Stone's efforts in the riveting films *Platoon* and *Born On The Fourth Of July*.

Versions of mass-market fiction — popular genre

novels — also found their way onto the screen in 1993. In addition to his *Jurassic Park*, Crichton's East versus West political suspense novel *Rising Sun* also was adapted for the screen; the film starred Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes. The Firm, starring Tom Cruise, and *The Pelican Brief*, with Julia Roberts and Denzel Washington — thrillers based on the work of author John Grisham — were also among 1993's top moneymakers.

Original scripts, although not at all dominant in Hollywood this past year, frequently attracted audiences as well. Preeminent among them was *Philadelphia*, written by Ron Nyswaner and directed by Jonathan Demme. It starred Tom Hanks as an attorney who, upon announcing that he has contracted AIDS, is dismissed by his firm — which he promptly sues. Denzel Washington and Jason Robards were co-stars. The Home Box Office cable television network also debuted an original movie about AIDS based on Randy Shilts' history of the disease, entitled *And The Band Played On*.

Hollywood often turned to the theatre for source material. In addition to British actor-director Kenneth Branagh's exuberant,

ribald staging of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, movie audiences had their choice of *Shadowlands* (British writer William Nicholson's touching drama about the romance between author C.S. Lewis and the American Joy Davidman) and *Six Degrees Of Separation*, a comedy-drama with social overtones by U.S. dramatist John Guare.

American audiences in 1993 particularly warmed to three foreign films that sensually depicted adulterous relationships — *The Piano*, from Australia, *Like Water For Chocolate* from Mexico, and *Farewell My Concubine* from China.

One of the unusual aspects of the 1993 film year were the multiple appearances onscreen by many leading actors.

Clint Eastwood, winner of the "best actor" Oscar for *Unforgiven* last year, appeared as a Secret Service agent protecting a U.S. president in *Line Of Fire*, then acted in and directed a contemporary chase thriller, *A Perfect World*, costarring Kevin Costner. Anthony Hopkins, who played opposite Debra Winger in *Shadowlands*, beautifully portrayed a dedicated butler in an English manor in *The Remains Of The Day*, which co-starred

Chiropractic — A new prospective on treatment and health

By Omar Makram Nushalwat

CHIROPRACTIC, a term derived from the Greek language meaning "done by hand", refers to a relatively young healing regimen.

The basic premise of chiropractic is healing ailments related to and/or resulting from the dysfunction of the joints of the body with emphasis on the spinal column. The treatment is accomplished naturally and without the use of perspective drugs or surgery. The chiropractic tools consist of the chiropractic adjustment mainly, physical therapy, soft tissue manipulation, nutritional counselling and supplementation, and therapeutic exercise and rehabilitation.

The chiropractic adjustment, also known as the chiropractic manipulation, is the manual application of a precise and directed force by the clinician to a joint in order to eliminate any restrictions in the joint movement. These restrictions can lead to discomfort and imbalance in the related muscles causing spasms and pain. Once the joint has been adjusted, the joint returns to its normal function, eliminating pain. Muscle spasm can then be reduced or removed.

In the spine, the restrictions between the vertebrae

can compromise the blood flow and the nerve supply by reflex mechanisms associated with the joints. Therefore the chiropractic adjustment will invariably restore normal function in the said systems.

The chiropractic clinician addresses the problematic joint as well as the other joints of the body, particularly the spine, as they are all related biomechanically. The dysfunctional spinal joint, termed the spinal subluxation, will inevitably cause imbalances in other spinal joints elsewhere. The segments of the spinal column function as a closed kinematic chain, meaning that one vertebra at one end of the spine will ultimately affect another at the other end of the column.

The subluxation complex can be caused by improper posture, sudden trauma, or repetitive micro-trauma. To properly address the problem, the chiropractor must investigate the cause of the subluxation to prevent re-injury, once the problem has been resolved.

As chiropractors show to the public and mainstream health care providers the efficacy of the adjustment, one must not overlook the complete scope of practice. Therapeutic exercise increases the magnitude of the adjustment extensively. Without proper exercise techniques, and adjustment would soon lose its therapeutic effect. Increasing muscle tone of the surrounding

musculature is often closely related to the proper resolution of the problem.

Other considerations are of nutrition.

Nutrition plays a major role in the proper function of the body. If a nutritional deficiency exists, dysfunction and disease will result. Many musculo-skeletal problems can be linked to improper diet. Therefore, diet counselling and supplementation is part of the complete picture of treatment and better health.

Chiropractors are trained to diagnose not only problems of the musculo-skeletal system, but systemic disorders as well. The education involves all aspects of the human body and diseases affecting it. As a physician, the chiropractor can recognise the disturbances of the body, order lab tests, interpret them, establish a diagnosis, implement a management plan alongside a specialist. The fact that a chiropractor does not prescribe drugs does not remove him from the status of a primary health care provider.

The most common conditions presented to a chiropractor are lower back pain, neck pain, and headaches. Other conditions involving the knee, shoulder and elbow are also common. In the cases presenting with lower back pain, a study in England compared traditional treatment rendered by orthopedists with chiropractic

care. The results showed a 77 per cent improvement with chiropractic care versus a 37 per cent improvement with traditional care.

There exists many reasons for lower back pain. The chiropractor can distinguish and treat these cases from the simple muscle strain to the herniated intervertebral disc. Of every three people in the United States, one experiences back pain at any given time. These complaints lead to lost work time and expenses. Chiropractic has been shown to be an effective and cost-efficient method to solve this problem no matter how small it is.

Today's society is becoming increasingly competitive and stressful. The demand for better health care is escalating. Chiropractic is an alternative approach to overcoming this demand. Through chiropractic care the body is given the chance to heal with minimum trauma and less lost time. Granted that chiropractic cannot cure everything, but alongside other health care regimens, the chances for better health are better than ever.

Welcome to the world of Chiropractic.

The writer is a chiropractic intern at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Older kidney dialysis patients have 'dismal' recovery rate

By Brenda C. Coleman

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — An increasing number of older patients who receive kidney dialysis have "dismal" prospects of living a normal life, a new study suggests. Its authors call for more services to help them.

In a separate study, researchers found that less than a third of dialysis patients older than 55 survive five years.

Both studies appear in the latest issue of the Journal of American Medical Association.

More than 155,000 Americans undergo the procedure to mechanically cleanse the blood after their kidneys fail, with the number expected to rise to 240,000 by the year 2000.

Since 1973, the federal government has paid 80 per cent of costs, regardless of

the patient's age.

During 1990, more than half of dialysis patients were 55 years old or older, and the proportion of older patients is expected to grow.

"Many older patients on dialysis are exercising a marginal existence, not participating in family, home, church or social activities," said Dr. Eli A. Friedman, co-author of the first study.

Dr. Norman G. Levinson, who wasn't involved in either study, said people on dialysis adjust their perspective.

"Knowing the alternative, namely being dead, they seem to rank it comparable to people with a normal quality of life," he said about the first study.

"Mr. Levinson, chairman of medicine at Boston University Medical Center, said the second study confirms earlier research.

In the first study, researchers interviewed 104 patients over age 65 at seven outpatient kidney dialysis units in the New York City borough of Brooklyn. The patients had been undergoing dialysis for at least six months.

Only 33 of the patients were participating in any activities outside their homes besides dialysis; 81 of the total group had been involved in outside activities two years earlier.

That "dismal" level of rehabilitation may stem from poverty, illiteracy and other urban troubles, but increasing numbers of dialysis patients fit that profile, the researchers found.

In the second study, researchers with the New York State Department of Health studied 95,394 kidney-failure patients ages 55 and older who began dialysis nationwide between 1982 and 1987.

The study found that 32 per cent of dialysis patients 55 to 64 years of age lived for at least five years. Older patients did much worse.

Diabetes was the most common cause of kidney failure in the study. Each year, more than 2,000 patients older than 65 with diabetic kidney disease begin dialysis.

Patients who had kidney failure for other reasons, such as high blood pressure or cysts in the kidneys, survived longer.

Dr. Friedman and his colleagues called for more services to help older dialysis patients, such as providing assistance to help them do the procedure at home.

Dr. Friedman is director of the renal division at the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn.

U.S. approves funding for fetal tissue transplants

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON — The National Institute of Health (NIH) has approved the first federal grant to study the effects of implanting fetal tissue into the brains of patients as a possible treatment for Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Patricia Grady, director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, announced that the \$4.5 million grant will fund a fetal neural transplant programme developed by physicians at three private medical institutions.

She said there may be more grants this year, both for Parkinson's and other brain disorders.

Former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush prohibited the use of federal funds for research involving the use of tissue taken from aborted fetuses. But President Bill Clinton lifted the five-year-old ban during his first week in the White House.

"By making federal funds available, President Clinton has made it possible to determine whether fetal tissue implants are worthwhile for

treating patients with severe Parkinson's disease," said Dr. Curt Freed of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, one of the institutions that will receive grant money as part of the fetal tissue research programme.

Physicians at the university performed the first fetal brain tissue transplant in the United States in 1988, and continued to develop the neural transplant programme using private funds. Most patients paid for the surgery themselves.

Parkinson's which affects an estimated one million people in the United States, most of them over 60 years old, is a chronic nervous disease characterised by slowly spreading tremors, muscular weakness and rigidity. The illness destroys tissue in the brain that makes dopamine, a chemical that affects body movement.

Patients can be treated with drugs that ease the symptoms but do not stop the disease, which eventually causes dementia and virtual paralysis.

Under the new grant, 40 Parkinson's patients now under treatment at the Col-

umbia-Presbyterian Medical Centre in New York will be evaluated to determine the extent of their disease. They will be videotaped and their movements measured by computer-timed tests.

The patients will then be evaluated at the Cornell University Medical College on Long Island using a brain imaging technique called Positron Emission Tomography (PET). The technique measures the function of brain cells that produce dopamine.

Following these initial tests, the patients will be sent to the University of Colorado in Denver, where half of them will receive fetal tissue transplants. The remaining patients will receive placebos — injections not containing the tissue. Neither the patients nor the doctors will know who gets the fetal tissue.

Tissue used in the transplants comes from human fetuses aborted after seven to eight weeks of gestation. Long needles are used to inject the fetal cells into the brains of the Parkinson's patients under local anesthesia.

PET scanning will be used on the patients again

after surgery to detect changes in dopamine production. Researchers believe the fetal tissue implants should replace the lost dopamine-producing cells, restoring normal movement and providing a better response to drug treatments.

Researchers said that the fetal tissue has several useful properties, including the fact that the host body does not reject it as "foreign," and its ability to mature and establish new connections with surrounding cells.

The results of three studies published last November found that although fetal tissue transplants do not cure Parkinson's disease, some patients improved enough to walk without falling, feed and clothe themselves, and drive cars. Others, however, showed no measurable benefit.

An editorial that accompanied the report on the studies, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, cautioned that while the results were encouraging, many questions remained, such as how long the benefits would last and how much fetal tissue would be needed — USA.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

"TIS THE SEASON

By Thomas W. Schler

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New study extends use of Aspirin for heart disease prevention

By Randi Hutter Epstein

The Associated Press

LONDON — A new study provides the strongest evidence yet that half an Aspirin tablet a day cuts the likelihood of heart attacks and strokes by 25 per cent among people with heart disease or past heart attacks.

But the study — the first part of which was published in the latest issue of the British Medical Journal — said the risk of taking Aspirin could outweigh the benefits for people with no history of heart problems.

"For the general population, the message is we don't have any good reason for self-medication," said Professor Richard Peto, a researcher at Oxford University. "Long term Aspirin use has small side effects that may counterbalance the benefits."

Prof. Peto said, however, that "the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that Aspirin helps a much wider range of high-risk patients than are currently getting treated."

Groups that should be treated and are not, include women, the elderly, hypertensives and diabetics — all of whom showed the same 25 per cent reduction in risk, Prof. Peto said.

Use of Aspirin in appropriate cases could prevent 100,000 deaths per year in developed nations, including 20,000 in the United States, the study con-

cluded. Among the general population, possible side effects from Aspirin include a small increase in the risk of strokes from bleeding in the brain. Aspirin, which interferes with the clotting process, can help prevent the other kind of stroke, caused by clots in arteries that supply blood to the brain.

Previously, a Harvard study called the U.S. Physicians Health Study showed that healthy men could reduce their risk of heart attacks by taking Aspirin daily, a finding that prompted its widespread use among Americans men.

But data from studies involving 30,000 healthy volunteers suggested that the benefits of Aspirin may be outweighed by the increase in strokes, Prof. Peto said.

The three-part study was based on data compiled from 300 trials and 120,000 patients.

Dr. Graham Colditz, associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, said "the extension to women is fundamentally important."

Dr. Gerald Pohost, director of cardiology at University of Alabama in Birmingham, also called the findings exciting.

The British researchers compiled data from practically every study worldwide involving the use of Aspirin or Aspirin-like drugs to prevent heart attacks or strokes.

Many scientists consider such overviews, also called meta-analyses, more persuasive than individual studies, because large trials minimise bias that may occur in smaller studies.

Also, effects that might not be noticeable in small studies emerge when thousands of patients are

looked at together.

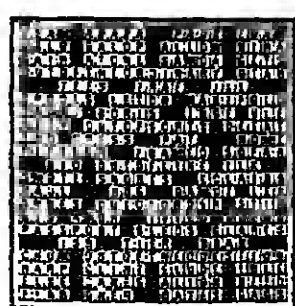
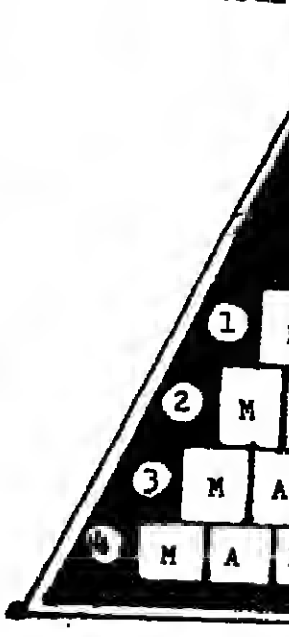
The study found that Aspirin was just as effective as more expensive Aspirin-like drugs such as Ticlopidine or Sulfinpyrazole.

The analysis also found that Aspirin can help prevent clots in veins after surgery. Until now, most doctors assumed Aspirin worked on arteries, which carry blood from the heart, but not veins, which bring blood back to the heart.

Dr. Rory Collins, a co-investigator at Oxford University,

SOLUTION PUZZLES

LETTERS TRIANGLE



Peace cannot be piecemeal, its fruits must be distributed equitably; serious and substantive discussions with neighbours can only mark areas of future cooperation; a balanced relationship with no disparities among the region's economies should be established

Following is the full text of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's speech at the conference on economic and business implications of the Arab-Israeli peace process, organised by the Middle East Economic Digest at Queen Elizabeth Centre, Westminster, London, on Jan. 10, 1995.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour to deliver the keynote address to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) conference on the economics of peace in the Middle East. With so many distinguished thinkers on this subject gathered together today, I feel that we cannot but make significant progress in the understanding of this complex area. I would like to set the tone by presenting an approach that could help achieve a viable framework for the areas to be discussed in the three other sessions today: the future of the Palestinian economy, the reconstruction challenge, and financing the peace.

As all those involved with MEED are aware, the entire region has been shattered by decades of conflict. While the Middle East is potentially self-sustaining in every respect, the Arab-Israeli conflict has left the economies of the region insular in orientation and stunted in development. Crippled by debt and the demands of massive military expenditure, not one of the countries of the region — including Israel — could at present claim to be self-supporting in any meaningful way. Only peace can redeem this state of affairs.

The Middle East peace process has weathered changes of administration in Israel and the United States; it has survived political and military crises, and its negotiations have come through periods of difficulty to provide fresh hope. If the process is currently encountering a number of technical obstacles, it has also demonstrated unprecedented resilience. Jordan believes that this opportunity to resolve the conflict cannot be missed. The no-war, no-peace status that holds us in its thrall has benefited none of the

parties. The accumulation of weapons in the region, particularly since the second Gulf war, means that the consequences of a future war are unthinkable. Peace is therefore the only viable path, and we in Jordan are pledged to do all in our power to pursue that path.

The mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel last autumn was a significant breakthrough in Arab-Israeli relations. The Conference to Support Middle East peace, held in Washington last October, provided guarantees of support and assistance from the international community to the Palestinians, to help translate the promise of peace into tangible reality. The Jordanian-Israeli common agenda was likewise a bold step on the road to peace. However, the substance of peace is infinitely more complex than its rhetoric.

Peace-making has entered a new phase which requires an extensive investment in detail and technicalities. Soundbite diplomacy is no substitute for substantive negotiation.

Jordan is engaged in serious and substantive discussions with its neighbours, with the aim of delineating areas of future cooperation in all spheres.

We have just agreed with the Palestinians a cooperation agreement at the official bilateral level, at the private sector level, and at the Arab and international levels. We will explore the details of such fields as money and banking, trade, human resources development, tourism, investment promotion, taxation, health, agriculture, infrastructure: not the stuff of headlines, but the stuff of which true peace is made.

For despite the 1988 severance of administrative links, the geographic, historic and demographic ties between Jordan and Palestine endure.

Such factors lie behind our decision to reopen branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories and to encourage the Jordanian private sector to invest in the West Bank and Gaza: for these are designed to help the nascent Palestinian economy in its development.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the Jordanian-Israeli American economic committee will provide a valuable forum to address all aspects of human resource development, trade, finance, economic and monetary policy between Jordan and Israel. We now look forward to discussing other substantive issues, such as water, boundaries and refugees, on the basis of international law.

It is possible that in the long term, an arrangement similar to that which exists between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg would give all parties the psychological and material sense of security that is vital to sustainable peace. Jordan's primary role in a Benelux-type arrangement would be to provide stability: a role for which it is well-qualified, having traditionally served as an island of moderation in an otherwise volatile region. In addition, Jordan's historic position at the crossroads of East and West, stretching back to antiquity, equips it well to be a window for the world on a new Middle East, one finally at peace.

However, the disparities and distortions created by the conflict must be eliminated if such arrangements are to enjoy lasting success. Peace must be forged between partners, and the relationship that exists between Israel and the occupied territories is not one of partnership, but of hegemony. The Israeli occupation has destroyed the economies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing the development and expansion of Palestinian enterprise, and prohibiting free trade within the area. A recent World Bank study shows that in a "normal" situation, Israel would account for a fifth of the occupied territories' exports and a third of their imports; instead, 85 per cent of their trade is with Israel. Whatever the nature of the Palestinian entity agreed upon for the occupied territories, it would not serve the interests of any party for it to be subject to a single set of incentives.

Even under conditions of peace, the disparity between the Israeli economy and those of the other core parties to the

conflict would demand appropriate measures to fashion a balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the EU bear consideration in this regard. This is particularly vital as the Israeli economy has many restrictive features and is heavily subsidised. Given a negotiated peace, the complete removal of these of features on both sides would be possible; but at the moment, when Israeli limits on our export to the occupied territories closely resemble boycott provisions, talk of lifting the Arab embargo is premature.

A GATT-EU approach could be the best way to deal with the economic legacies of the conflict. Indeed, Jordan has decided to apply for membership of GATT; for we believe that in seeking to evolve a healthy trade and investment regime, the experience of other countries — such as the Zone Franche arrangements between Geneva and France — will be invaluable. The European Commission recently approved a communication on "Future Relations and Cooperation Between the Community and the Middle East," illustrating the importance of experience in other parts of the world. The communication stresses the need for a common regional vision as a basis for cooperation in the Middle East. It states: "Partnership requires balanced economic development. If cooperation is to succeed it is essential to reduce excessive disparities in income levels between potential partners in the region." It adds that: "Cooperation should go in two directions: the pooling of

common capacities and the tackling of common problems ... implying, at some stage, freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and labour."

If one thing is clear at this point, it is that peace cannot be piecemeal. All the peoples of the region have suffered through the conflict; and just as all have their part to play in its rebuilding and renewal, so must its fruits be distributed equitably.

For it should never be forgotten that peace is ultimately not in the hands of governments, but of individuals; and unless peace can be made attractive to the man on the street, the best efforts of negotiators will come to naught.

Jordan, nearest to the core of the conflict, has shouldered an enormous human load. We have given shelter to three waves of displaced Palestinians. These refugees — about 1.7 million individuals — account today for one third of Jordan's population. The demographic strain on my country is vast; and the conflict has also had consequences in terms of debt. We are grateful for President Clinton's public commitment on the part of the United States to debt relief for Jordan, as our \$7bn. debt overhang is a real obstacle to the progressive policies which we wish to adopt. We seek to attract foreign investment, to upgrade infrastructure and to participate fully in regional projects. Jordan is committed to the peace process, to democratisation and economic liberalisation, to human rights, sustainable development and regional cooperation. But if we are to promote these policies effectively, exceptional efforts

will be needed in respect of our debt burden.

Ladies and gentlemen:

International investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples is vital. It is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinational corporations alike. A basket approach, covering human cooperation, resource cooperation and security, must be evolved. Peace requires an enduring structure that can tackle the "over-arching" problems of economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, over-extended public sectors, addition to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. An economic framework is needed to deal with such problems. This must in turn be backed up by wide-ranging security and cooperation arrangements at the regional level, involving all players. The multilateral component of the peace process provides a possible framework for this enterprise.

Given such arrangements, the reconstruction of the Middle East could proceed apace.

In terms of economic development, a free-trade zone across the Middle East would be the ultimate goal. Arrangements for a Middle East Free Trade Agreement — a MEFTA along the lines of NAFTA — would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production: labour, goods, capital and services. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour emerges as a vital prerequisite: for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

Such a development would provide an impetus for a new relationship of hope in the Middle East. Many other instruments would back this up. First and foremost, there needs to be a commitment to arms control from the purchasers and suppliers of weaponry. Secondly, regional bodies and charters will help ensure equity in resource-related areas such as energy and water; while incentives for local sustainable development programmes can support policies that guarantee a future for all. Finally, a regional debt sinking fund, and

a bank for Middle East reconstruction and development, will promote stable and open financial practices, improving the chances for the region to play a dynamic part in the world economy.

For many of the problems of the Middle East stem from the fact that the climate of conflict has forced the diversion of funds away from long-term development and into the military. Generations have grown up in a region which has prioritised military security above health or education. In a Middle East stabilised by a negotiated peace, and upheld by structures of collective security and cooperation, these funds could at last be channelled into building the social and economic foundations of peace, which are the surest foundations of all.

In all these areas, the experience and assistance of the international community of nations, and the international business community, will be indispensable to the Middle East. I am sure that conferences of this sort will help to deepen international understanding of the tasks at hand. I would like to thank the organisers for all their efforts; and I would like to thank you all for your attention.

House debates draft budget

(Continued from page 1)

to pay to serve political purposes in the West Bank ... but there is no need for (such funds now) since the budget allocates JD 6.5 million for the Awqaf (there)."

Deputies also demanded that the government include in the budget allocations for public institutions so that the House could monitor their financial performance.

Other deputies, however, praised the budget for aiming at attaining self-sufficiency and not resorting to borrowing.

Despite the sometimes harsh criticism of the budget, the majority of deputies are expected to endorse it when a vote is taken Saturday or Sunday.

Many deputies have indicated support for the recommendations of the Finance Committee, which asked them to approve the budget after introducing minor changes, mainly a reduction in current expenditure.

Israel, PLO stuck on security issues

(Continued from page 1)

Because of the deadlock on security issues, the two sides failed to meet the Dec. 13 date for the start of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, as laid down by the accord they signed in Washington.

The latest round of autonomy negotiations was to close late Wednesday, rather than Thursday night, to allow Gen. Shabak to attend the funeral of General Tamari.

Two or three delegates from each side were expected to stay on Thursday to draft the results of the talks.

Israel argues that the size of Jericho should not be critical since in the second stage of self-rule, to be negotiated soon after implementation of the Gaza-Jericho stage, the Palestinians are to receive much of the rest of the West Bank anyway.

Committee member Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said the panel "understood all the circumstances under which the policies were made and the draft budget engineered."

He said the committee was willing to cooperate with the government to implement the recommendations it has made in order to serve the country and consolidate the principle of cooperation between the executive and the legislative authorities.

In a political speech that embodied most of the policy adjustment demanded by other lawmakers, Mr. Kabarti called for an economic reform that is void of slogans and which derives from experience and practice.

Thirty-two more deputies are still to take the floor before the government responds to the deputies' remarks and a vote is taken, bringing to 65 the total number of deputies who would have spoken at the House's second marathon session since it convened on Nov. 23.

الجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة - الأردن

The Royal Society For The Conservation of Nature - Jordan
The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature is the only non-governmental organisation in Jordan responsible for protecting wildlife. It has established an international reputation for its conservation work.

In connection with its rapidly expanding work load, the Society is seeking suitably experienced and/or qualified people to fill the following vacancies:

I- HEAD OF PUBLIC AWARENESS

A well motivated, enthusiastic person is required to manage and develop the work of the recently formed Public Awareness Section. This section promotes the vital work of the RSCN across all sections of Jordanian Society. Much of the work is concerned with developing educational programmes for schools.

The successful candidate will have qualifications and/or experience in education or interpretation and in the management of people. Good communication skills and a commitment to wildlife conservation are essential. He or she must also speak and write fluent English.

II- HEAD OF FUNDRAISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

This newly created and very important job needs someone with excellent presentation and communication skills to manage and direct a small team of staff involved in all aspects of fundraising, marketing and public relations.

Relevant qualifications and experience in fundraising or marketing are essential. The ability to manage and co-ordinate staff and to speak and write fluently in English are also important. A genuine interest in wildlife conservation will be an advantage.

III- QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT

Candidates should have a degree in accountancy and be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) an ability to speak & write English fluently is also essential.

For more information contact administration office at: RSCN Q.H. 2nd floor of Civil Service Consumption/ El-Jubeha P.O. Box 6354

Closing date for applications the 20th of January
Candidate should bring C.V. and original documents

TENDER'S NOTICE

The Directorate of Project Services/Ministry of Education announces the tendering of the following tenders as a part of the Education Sector Investment Project No. (JO - P8) financed by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan (OECP).

Tender's No.	Title's	Fees JD
1/94	Furniture (local tender)	JD (100)
2/94	Computer	JD (100)
3/94	Lab. Equipment	JD (100)
4/94	Audio Visual Aids	JD (50)
5/94	Sports Equipment	JD (50)
6/94	Arts & Craft Equipment	JD (50)
7/94	Office Equipment	JD (50)

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from procurement division of Directorate of Projects Services/Ministry of Education, starting Jan. 11, 1994, against the payment of the above fees. Closing date will be 10:00 a.m. of March 21st, 1994.

Head of Special Tenders Committee

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al-Hussein Foundation presents in concert



The NMC Chamber Ensemble

Armen Armenkian (flute)
Ali Shoukri (clarinet)
Mohammed Ali Abbass (violin - viola)
Ali Musa (cello)
and
Mohammed Othman (piano)

Saturday, 15 January 1994 - 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

In the programme are pieces by:
Handel, Haydn, Bach, Chopin
Khachaturian and others

Tickets for JD 5 are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre - tel: 669026
- Babiche - tel: 661322
- Romero Restaurant - tel: 644227
- Rihani Stores - tel: 693775
- Parole Restaurant - tel: 824677
- The National Music Conservatory - tel: 687620

HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

{ COMEDAT } JORDAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRADING CO.
ANNOUNCES THE SALE OF THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT:

MACHINE TYPE	MAKE	MODEL	QTY.	YEAR
DRILLING RIGS	INGERSOLL-RAND	CM351	7	85-86
COMPRESSORS	INGERSOLL-RAND	VHP700	8	85-86
EXCAVATORS	O&K	RH75 A	4	77-79
	O&K	RH75 C	1	86
	O&K	RH40	1	81
DUMPTRUCKS	PERLINI	DP655	14	77-86
	PERLINI	131-33	10	89
	AVELING BARFORD	RD040	10	81-86
WHEEL LOADERS	CATERPILLAR	988 B	2	83-86
BULLDOZERS	KOMATSU	D 155 A	4	81-84
GRADERS	AVELING BARFORD	BFRD 400	1	79
	CATERPILLAR	130 G	1	76
	CATERPILLAR	140 G	1	84

N.B. ALL THE LISTED EQUIPMENT ARE ON TEMPORARY ENTRY BASIS
INTERESTED PARTIES ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE HEAD
OFFICE AT: JABAL AMMAN 41 ABU FIRAS ST. 4TH CIRCLE.
PHONE: 642096 / 644096

unicef

United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund, seeks qualified Jordanian candidates for the following position:

INFORMATION ASSISTANT - GS6

Duty Station: Amman - Jordan

Under the supervision of the Chief of External Relations assists in research and documentation of the External Relations' Section of UNICEF Regional Office by handling the promotion and distribution of communication materials to field and country offices; supervises the design, and follows-up with printers quality and punctuality of Arabic, English and French publications; is responsible for the audio visuals library and the cataloguing of photos, slides, films and videos and assists in other activities of the External Relations' Section.

Minimum qualifications:

First University Degree in Arts, Public Relations or Communications.

Minimum five years working experience, of which 2-3 years in the relevant work area.

Fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic. French is an asset.

Computer skills are essential and Desktop publishing skill in particular is an added asset.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference GS/94-01 to:

Asst. Admin/Personnel Officer
UNICEF Regional Office
P.O.Box 811721,
11181 Amman - Jordan

Qualified women are encouraged to apply. Applications for this position must be received not later than 22 January 1994.

Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

UNICEF is a smoke-free environment

"We don't want to put strictures" on the use of aid in the

Its previous record low was

Traders said concern that monthly inflation in January

ness.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) While an associate can be very true in the moment,

from Jan. 1. had traded at 1,293 to the dollar Tuesday. Its previous record low was

The rouble fell 18 per cent in the second half of last year, but consumer prices rose an aver-

Traders said concern that monthly inflation in January

services, would contract five per cent this year.

...and the

Sarajevo airlift resumes

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations resumed its humanitarian airlift to the besieged Bosnian capital Wednesday after a rocket crashed in the airport runway.

In central Bosnia, the U.N. launched a fresh attempt to get food aid into the enclave of Maglaj, where thousands of Muslims are encircled by Serbs and Croats and have received no road convoys for 10 weeks.

Alenka Lisinski, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Zagreb that 20 aid flights were scheduled to land in Sarajevo during the day after donor nations agreed to restart the operation.

Relief flights were suspended for six days earlier this month because of severe Muslim-Serb artillery battles near the airport of Sarajevo, which is encircled by rebel Serb forces.

They resumed Tuesday only to be halted within hours when the rocket struck. A U.S. plane was on the ground and a Canadian flight had just taken off. No injuries were reported.

There was no word on which side carried out the attack, as a U.N. investigation failed to turn up enough evidence.

Most aid for the city's more than 500,000 inhabitants arrives via the airport because fighting and obstructive tactics by rival military forces have

strangled overland convoy routes.

Meanwhile, Sarajevo Radio highlighted the city's precarious food situation, saying the main bakery had run out of flour and would not be able to produce any bread unless it received deliveries Wednesday.

The city itself was relatively quiet Wednesday morning, with little shelling. NATO jets, which patrol the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia, flew low over the capital.

NATO has renewed its threat of air strikes against the Serbs besieging Sarajevo and threatening other Muslim areas.

With NATO's credibility at stake over Bosnia, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the alliance meant business when it pledged to open Tuzla Airport and relieve a contingent of Canadian U.N. troops trapped in Srebrenica.

But British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind, mindful that Britain has troops in Bosnia, said he was not enthusiastic about airstrikes and insisted they should only be considered under very special circumstances.

In Prague, President Bill Clinton said he questioned whether any outside intervention could bring peace to Bosnia but said allied forces should keep open supply lines to help people in former Yugoslavia.

The United Nations military

spokesman in Sarajevo, Colonel Bill Aikman, said the city's Muslim-led defenders fired 200 shells, an unusually large number, at the Serbs Tuesday. For their parts, they were pounded by 600 shells in return.

This meant residential areas of Sarajevo bore the brunt of much of the incoming shelling, with a casualty toll in Muslim-held areas reported at seven dead and 49 wounded.

"Shelling of civilian areas does occur as a result of that," Col. Aikman told a news briefing. "Inevitably gun positions are near civilian locations."

The International Red Cross in Sarajevo said its headquarters came under fire Tuesday. One person was killed and two local Red Cross employees were wounded.

Col. Aikman reported fighting between Muslim and Croat forces in central Bosnia Tuesday. The eastern Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa were quiet, but Gorazde, where more than 60,000 Muslims are trapped by Bosnian Serbs, was shelled.

A U.N. relief convoy reached the edge of the besieged Bosnian Muslim enclave of Maglaj Wednesday in a new bid to aid thousands of civilians cut off since October.

A U.N. spokesman said the nine-truck convoy had made it to the last Serb checkpoint at Ozmica, four kilometres outside Maglaj, where a senior

U.N. refugee official, Larry Hollingworth, was negotiating final passage.

Civilians in Maglaj have received aid deliveries by land only twice in recent months. The last convoy entered on Oct. 25, according to Hollingworth, in charge of the UNHCR operation in north-central Bosnia.

Airdrops have provided almost the only outside food aid to the enclave since Serbs and Croats encircled and cut off the Muslim-led Bosnian army there last summer.

Air power use by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Bosnia-Herzegovina depends on less warlike "behaviour" by the Bosnian-Serbs, President Clinton said.

Buoyed by a unanimous vote reasserting the alliance's determination to use air strikes to enforce rotation of United Nations troops in Bosnia, the president said NATO military officials have been told to draft strike plans and to recommend possible action to the North Atlantic Council.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali sharply rebuked the U.N. commander in the Balkans, General Jean Cot of France, for saying he had repeatedly asked the U.N. chief for authority to order airstrikes in Bosnia, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.



A man salvages pots and pans from the foundations of his two-story home in Sydney destroyed by the worst firestorm in Australia's history (AFP photo)

Fires spark health warnings in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — Health officials warned Sydney residents with chronic heart or lung diseases to stay indoors Wednesday as bushfires left a blanket of smoke over the city and sent pollution levels soaring.

The New South Wales (NSW) Health Department officials also advised asthma sufferers and those with other respiratory illnesses to wear face masks when outdoors and warned everyone against strenuous outdoor exercise.

"People with chronic heart or lung disease should stay indoors," said Dr. Gavin Frost, the department's deputy chief health officer.

"Studies have shown that people with these conditions have a slightly increased risk of death if they are badly affected by smoke," Frost said.

Firefighters were prepared for fresh flare-ups because of hot weather and high winds forecast for the next few days.

The bushfires that ravaged Sydney's environs have so far killed four people, destroyed nearly 200 houses and burned 300,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of bushland. Many were hit deliberately and eleven people have been arrested.

While they are now burning away from populated areas, ash has left a thin film over buildings, cars and even the waves lapping Sydney's beaches.

Firefighters said controlled burning to deprive the fires of fuel if they change direction towards Sydney and other populated areas contributed to the thick smoke blanket.

Air pollution in western Sydney in the past few days has jumped to four times the normal level.

The NSW branch of the National Asthma Campaign received numerous calls from people complaining of breathing problems.

"A good percentage of asthma sufferers, as well as those with sinus problems or hay fever, are affected by this smoke," said the organisation's State Chairman Ron Brittain.

"Anybody who is going out in the smoke... should use something as simple as a face mask or dampened handkerchief."

The smoke blanket has also deprived Sydney of 1 1/2 hours of daylight each evening, a NSW Weather Bureau spokesman said.

"At the moment the large amount of smoke around Sydney means that there is very low transparency in the air," he said. "It's too thick for the early and late sunlight to get through."

The shorter summer days have meant cooler mornings and nights because the bureau spokesman said, "there is simply less time for the sun to heat us up in the day."

Firefighters said Wednesday they had another successful day combating the 150 fires across the state because forecast higher temperatures and high winds did not materialise.

Intensive controlled burning and water-bombing contained many of the state's bushfires, especially those in Sydney.

But late Wednesday there were two major new outbreaks in mountain bushland around Sydney's commuter towns of the Blue Mountains in the west and Gosford in the north.

"Unfortunately there has been a deterioration in the (forecast) weather conditions for the next few days, particularly for the coming weekend," said NSW Police and Emergency Services Minister Terry Griffiths.

"Under the predicted weather conditions both fires could well present real problems during the next 36 hours."

He said he had not contacted the rebels nor had they reached him, but he was scheduled to travel to the conflict zone in Chiapas Wednesday.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who appointed Mr. Camacho Monday, said earlier he would consider an amnesty for those who joined the rebels out of desperation caused by poverty.

The Zapatistas, in a communiqué delivered Monday to a newspaper in San Cristobal, demanded a ceasefire and the return of all Mexican army troops to their bases before they would agree to negotiate.

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South Africa township residents demand action

KATLEHONG, South Africa (R) — Battle-weary people in South Africa's most violent township Wednesday demanded action not words from the multi-party executive body which has pledged to bring peace to shattered communities.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC), set up to monitor President F.W. de Klerk's government in the run-up to the April 27 election, said Tuesday night it was acting to stem political violence in townships east of Johannesburg.

But people in Katlehong and neighbouring Tokoza, where more than 1,500 people were killed in political violence last year, said the TEC needed to move immediately.

"In the eyes of shattered communities, this body (the TEC) will soon lose its credibility by resorting to commissions, committees, task forces and peace missions whenever there is a problem," said Katlehong ANC leader Kennedy Ngengebele.

On Sunday shooting erupted from a migrant workers' hostel controlled by the ANC's main rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party, while ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa led a walking tour of Katlehong.

Abdul Shariffe, a freelance photographer, was killed and two reporters were wounded in the attack.

The 19-party TEC decided Tuesday there should be "no quick fixes" to bring peace to Katlehong and Tokoza.

Japan Socialists decide to back Hosokawa

TOKYO (R) — Leaders of Japan's Socialist Party, the largest in the ruling coalition, managed Wednesday to contain internal opposition to a package of political reforms.

At the end of a stormy two-day national party convention, Chairman Tomichi Murayama persuaded delegates to support Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's reforms despite fears they could spell electoral disaster for the party.

"We will not lose our integrity and we will fight for the enactment of the political reform bills," Mr. Murayama said. "We will strengthen the

party leadership and strengthen the coalition government."

The reforms are crucial for the Hosokawa government, which came to power last year promising to clean up corrupt politics. But wrangling over them has held up other important business, including sorely needed anti-recession measures.

Mr. Murayama managed to persuade party hardliners to retract four resolutions that could have forced the party to leave the coalition and bring down the government.

U.S. report: China failed to improve human rights

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The draft of a report by the State Department on human rights has concluded China has not made significant progress in curbing widespread abuses last year, according to a report in the Wednesday editions of the New York Times.

President Bill Clinton has said repeatedly China must improve its record on human rights if it wishes to win extension of preferential trade benefits next summer.

The paper said senior administration officials said Tuesday the report's findings underscored repeated warnings by the president and Secretary of State Warren Christopher about its human rights abuses.

China will lose the right to export its goods to the United States under the same low tariffs enjoyed by most other countries unless it urgently improves its record.

By one analysis, the paper said, the loss of most favoured nation status would raise the average customs duty on goods imported from China to 40 percent from eight per cent.

Although China must be credited with improvement in some areas since 1993, the report showed, there were also serious setbacks in its performance, including arbitrary arrests and torture and ill treatment of political and religious dissidents.

It also states, the paper said, that the Beijing government

continues to use repression to maintain control of its population, primarily through the state security forces.

The annual report is undergoing a final review before being sent to Congress in three weeks, the paper said.

Its revelations come during a time the administration is going through a policy struggle over the wisdom of making renewal of China's beneficial trade status totally dependent on its performance on human rights.

A Republican lawmaker just back from China said Tuesday he warned Beijing officials that Congress would fight any effort to renew the country's preferential trade status if no progress is made in human rights.

Representative Chris Smith said lawmakers would not allow President Clinton to accept only token improvements in China's record on human rights in order to continue most favoured nation (MFN) status.

"Without substantial progress in human rights, we told officials at the foreign affairs ministers and others that MFN will be a dead letter," Mr. Smith told reporters.

President Clinton has made similar statements about trade status with China, but Mr. Smith said, "I remain concerned that Mr. Clinton may whitewash China's human rights record by accepting only token gestures."

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA claims Belfast attack

BELFAST (R) — The IRA said Wednesday it carried out an attack on a security force vehicle which seriously injured three police officers. A policewoman and two male colleagues were taken to hospital after the attack in a staunchly Catholic area of Belfast late Tuesday. The policewoman suffered eye injuries, one of the men had serious chest wounds and the other had severe facial wounds. The IRA (Irish Republican Army) claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to a radio station in the Northern Ireland capital. Police said initially a bomb had been thrown at the vehicle but reported later the guerrillas appeared to have fired a rocket. Meanwhile, the Irish government announced the end Tuesday of a 20-year broadcasting ban on the IRA and its political wing Sinn Fein in an apparent move to persuade them to endorse an Anglo-Irish peace plan for Northern Ireland. It said it would not renew the ban, known as Section 31, when it comes up for renewal of January 19, raising the prospect that Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams could appear on Irish Television for the first time in two decades shortly afterwards.

Gas pipeline to Armenia blown up

YEREVAN (R) — Unidentified groups blew up a section of a vital gas pipeline running from Georgia to neighbouring Armenia Tuesday in the third such explosion in a month, an Armenian government spokesman said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the blast at the Azeri-populated village of Gardabani in southeast Georgia, spokesman Vladimir Manoyan said by telephone. Gas supplies to Armenia were cut off several times last year after blasts at Georgian pipelines last year. The latest explosions were on Dec. 18 and on Dec. 24, Mr. Manoyan said. Armenia depends on Georgia for gas since neighbouring Azerbaijan, with which it is warring over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, cut off its supplies two years ago. Mr. Manoyan said the former Soviet republic was receiving 2.5 million cubic metres (88 million cubic feet) of gas a day through Georgian pipelines before the disruptions.

Khmer Rouge blow up new bridge

POIPET, Cambodia (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge blew up a new bridge along Cambodia's National Route 5 as guerrillas burned tracks of ricefield, government and military officials said Wednesday. The guerrillas attacked government troops guarding the bridge along Route 5 at Phum Osmuot, south of Sisophon, in Banteay Meanchey province, a military official in the capital Phnom Penh said. A government officer told reporters on the Thai-Cambodian border that one government soldier was killed and three injured in the 30-minute firefight — one guerrilla was also killed. The guerrillas proceeded to use landmines to destroy a 5-metre (16.5 foot) stretch of the bridge, the military official said. The bridge was renovated by Thai military engineers and is just some 60 kilometres south of another bridge at the Thai-Cambodian border, which Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai will officially open Thursday, the government officials said. The Thai premier, on a three-day visit to Cambodia aimed at boosting the often troubled relations between the two neighbouring kingdoms, will preside over an inauguration ceremony for the "friendship bridge" and also for a stretch of the highway recently constructed by Thai army engineers.

Balladur to visit China

BEIJING (R) — France has agreed not to allow arms sales to Taiwan, paving the way for a renewal of good relations with China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday. "The Chinese side reaffirms that arms sales of any type to Taiwan will bring harm to China's sovereignty, security and reunification and that the Chinese government will be firmly opposed to that," Xinhua quoted a joint communiqué as saying. "In view of the concerns of the Chinese side, the French government has undertaken not to authorise any French enterprises to participate in the arming of Taiwan."

Xinhua said as a result of the communiqué, French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur would visit Beijing soon. "China and France have decided to restore their traditional relations of friendly cooperation," it said.

German presidency moves to Berlin

BERLIN (AFP) — German President Richard von Weizsäcker transferred his official residence from Bonn to Berlin in a bid to speed the government's controversial move back to the country's former capital. Mr. Weizsäcker christened his new residence, Bellevue Castle, Tuesday afternoon with a New Year's reception for 200 of Germany's most deserving citizens — a traditional event previously held in Bonn. One of the strongest supporters of a rapid switch of Germany's power base from Bonn to Berlin, Mr. Von Weizsäcker said last year he would move east at the beginning of 1994 to set a precedent. Deputies voted in June 1991 to transfer the Bundestag — or lower parliamentary house — to Berlin. Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced the move would take place before 2000, and a timetable may be set during a cabinet meeting Thursday.

Plumbers told to be politically correct

LONDON (R) — British plumbers have been told to be politically correct and stop talking about ballcocks and "stopcocks" in the cranny pipes of their customers. A new guide to anti-racist terminology issued to water authorities said ballcocks should now be called "float-operated valves."

But the new policy document from the Water Research Association was greeted with scorn by plumbers. "This is political correctness gone mad. You have to wonder where it will all end," said Allan Robinson of the National Plumbers Association. He told the Times: "This is the most powerful document in plumbing and all our members have to obey it. It dictates what every plumber must do by law and failure to comply can lead to them being heavily fined."

Mr. Robinson said the association's 20,000 members were "treating this as a bit of a joke. One has said he will charge £15 (\$22) to fit a stopcock but £30 (\$45) to fit a stop-valve."

Women who don't wear well

HOLLYWOOD (R) — Actress Glenn Close, who stars in the stage musical Sunset Boulevard, topped the annual list of worst-dressed women issued Tuesday by Mr. Blackwell, Hollywood's self-appointed fashion arbiter. His 1994 list included: 2. Actress Julia Roberts, 3. singer Diana Ross, 4. actress Rosie Perez, 5. actress Susan Sarandon, 6. Latoya Jackson, sister of pop star Michael Jackson, 7. actress Holly Hunter, 8. actress Rosie O'Donnell, 9. country singer Tanya Tucker, 10. actress Daryl Hannah. Last year's "winner," pop superstar Madonna, was not named this year by Blackwell.

"Selfish sex" provoked organ slashing — wife

MANASSAS, Virginia (R) — Lorena Bobbitt told a policeman she lopped off her husband's penis in anger because he had forced sex on her, and said he was a selfish lover who never led her to orgasm, the policeman testified, Detective Peter Weintz, reading from a transcript of his taped interview with Mrs. Bobbitt, said she told him she got the idea for revenge as she drank a glass of water in the kitchen after a harsh sex episode and saw a kitchen knife. "And then I took it and I was just angry... He's selfish. I don't think it's fair, so I pulled back the sheets and then I did it," she told Mr. Weintz.

Cops lose arsenal to kids

TAMPA, Florida (R) — An FBI SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) team member got a taste of Florida's crime problem when someone stole his car — and the pistol, shotgun, machinegun and bullet-proof armour — locked inside the trunk. Tampa Police said they recovered the car that was stolen from outside a south Tampa motel and some of the weapons. They said a narcotics squad spotted a group of teenagers carrying two of the missing weapons. The machine gun was not recovered.

Whats in a name?

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — A catchy name is spelling trouble for the owner of Saks Thrift Avenue, who has been ordered to stop using it at her second-hand clothes store because of complaints from rival retailer Saks Fifth Avenue. In a ruling in a lawsuit filed by Saks, a federal judge told Beatrice Hill she must change the name of her small consignment shop because of its similarity to the New York-based department store chain. While Saks' sales topped \$1 billion annually, Hill said that in a good year she would net about \$15,000. She inherited the store's name when she bought it in 1986.

Police nail napping gourmand

SAO PAULO (R) — A Brazilian man who broke into a Sao Paulo social club and fell asleep after eating a chicken, a carton of ice cream and 30 glasses of beer, woke to find himself under arrest. Renato Pereira Dos Santos, 26, had planned to steal music and video equipment. But he found a frozen chicken, defrosted, cooked and ate it, along with a carton of ice cream. He washed the whole meal down with around 30 glasses of beer and stretched out on a towel on the floor for a nap. "I was so drunk I forgot that the police existed," he said.

Al Fais Friday

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Al Faisali, Al Ramtha clash Friday in Jordan Cup final

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The newly renovated Amman International Soccer Stadium at Al Hussein Youth City will host Al Faisali-Al Ramtha Friday for the 14th Jordan Cup final.

The Jordan Cup — one of four competitions organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) — is the second most-prestigious tournament after the first division championship. The other trophies are the Cup Winners' Cup — a charity match played at the beginning of each new season between the Jordan Cup winner and the first division champion — and the Federation Shield in which only first division teams can compete.

During the 1993 season, current league leaders Al Faisali have won the first division to 7 of the past 13 seasons, already clinched one title — the Cup Winners' Cup by beating Al Wihdat. Meanwhile, Al Ramtha overcame Al Qadisiyah to win the Shield.

Therefore, with the first division competition now enjoying a brief break before the second leg begins on Jan. 27, both Al Ramtha and Al Faisali will seek to add another title to their achieve-

ments.

Forty-seven teams representing the first, second and third divisions competed in the Jordan Cup which began in August and was delayed pending the completion of Al Faisali's and Al Ramtha's regional competition as well as the first division competition.

Al Faisali have won all their three clashes against Al Ramtha in the Jordan Cup final: 1-0 in 1981; 3-0 in 1983; and 2-1 in 1989. In all Al Faisali have captured the title six times while Al Ramtha won it twice.

The 1993 Jordan Cup was much criticised as most first division teams made it to the round of 16 without having to play many matches. Both Al Faisali and Al Ramtha made it to the final after playing four matches only. Al Faisali beat Al Arabi 5-2 and Al Jazireh 1-0 before facing Al Qadisiyah in the semifinal, drawing 1-1 and winning 1-0. Al Ramtha on the other hand, beat Al Jilil 3-0 and Al Ahli 1-0 before scoring 4-2 and 2-1 wins over Sahab in the semifinal.

With the final match only a day away, Al Faisali appear better prepared to take on their opponents.

They sailed through the first leg of the first division

with an unbeaten streak and the best scoring record (25-5).

Furthermore, their coach had an excellent opportunity to review strategy when they played two matches last week in Beirut drawing 1-1 with Al Hikmah and losing 1-0 to Homentmen. Al Faisali is preparing to take part in the Arab Cup in Qatar on Jan. 20.

Meanwhile most of Al Ramtha's top strikers have missed the team's matches either because of injuries or problems with the club's officials.

Al Ramtha are fourth in the first division behind Al Faisali, Al Ahli and Al Hussein with 6 wins, 3 losses, and two draws.

Past Jordan Cup winners

1980	Faisali
1981	Faisali
1982	Wihdat
1983	Faisali
1984	Jazireh
1985	Wihdat
1986	Arab
1987	Faisali
1988	Wihdat
1989	Faisali
1990	Ramtha
1991	Ramtha
1992	Faisali

Olympic chiefs seek progress on drugs

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AFP) — Olympic chiefs are hoping for a breakthrough in the war on drugs when they meet the major sports federations here Thursday.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) wants to harmonise the way that different sports deal with drug offenders and will put forward a text to this effect.

IOC drug buster Prince Alexandre De Merode, head of its Medical Commission, said he would consider the meeting a success if even half of the 31 heads of sporting federations approve the code.

"The difficulties of certain federations have to be taken into account," the prince said. "For example, tennis has a long way to go in terms of dope testing, but its senior officials have shown they are willing to do something. The ATP could show the same understanding."

The text, which calls for more rapid progress on harmonising the rules for in-competition and out-of-competition testings would only be a starting point, Prince Alexandre said.

"A commission would then take over, as it would require trips to see how things have been working out in the field. And little by little, those federations who didn't sign up at the beginning could go later on."

The meeting will be presided by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The initiative will enjoy the unwavering support of the German Athletics Federation, which made its own call Wednesday for a common drugs policy.

Federation President Helmut Digel, speaking in Darmstadt, said: "We are not satisfied with the legal situation as it stands today. Unifying would be in the interests of all the international sporting federations."

He described the varying punishments for doping offences, which range from a two-month to a four-year suspension, as "a genuine scandal." Specifically, he called for a two-year ban for athletes — the current period normally being four years.

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Sampras squeezes into New South Wales Open quarterfinals

SYDNEY (Agencies) — World number one Pete Sampras was forced to negotiate a spot of local difficulty before squeezing into the quarterfinals of the New South Wales Open Wednesday.

The top-seeded American, having been one set and 4-0 up against Australian Jason Stoltenberg, saw his dogged opponent storm back into a 4-2 lead in the decisive third set and was ultimately happy to escape with a 6-1 4-6 7-5 win.

Stoltenberg had recovered from a set and 5-0 down in his first-round match against compatriot Richard Fromberg and Sampras later admitted he had feared a repeat performance at this own expense.

"I couldn't believe what happened. I was down a break in the final set and thought 'I'm pretty much history,' said Sampras. "I completely lost my confidence but he got a little tight. I was a bit lucky."

The defending champion was also impressed by an inflatable plastic aeroplane, painted in sponsor's colours, which was regularly blown into view above the court by the wind.

"The plane was driving me nuts. Whenever I tossed the

ball up, I didn't just have the sun to deal with but also a bloody balloon."

Stoltenberg rightly suggested that people would have "started talking" if Sampras had followed up his first-round loss in Qatar last week with another confidence-sapping defeat.

Austrian Thomas Muster and Marc Rosset of Switzerland, seeded third and seventh respectively, both went out. Muster went down 7-6 5-7 6-4 to big-serving Czech Daniel Vacek while Rosset lost in straight sets to American Aaron Krickstein.

Muster's defeat means that three of the top four men's seeds in the tournament have already dropped out. Fifth seed Petr Korda almost joined them, recovering from 5-4 down in the final set to beat Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka in a tiebreak.

Ivan Lendl needed five match points before completing a 6-3 7-5 win over Australian Jamie Morgan.

Top women's seeds Conchita Martinez and Gabriela Sabatini also reached the quarterfinals, although Martinez had to scramble for her 2-6 7-5

6-2 win over Germany's Wiltrud Probst.

There were an extraordinary 16 service breaks in the match, including nine in the second set alone, and Martinez admitted: "I hope my game's going to get better than this."

Martinez bridled at the suggestion here Wednesday she had still to emerge from the shadow of her great Spanish rival Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Martinez won five tournaments last year and pushed her career earnings to almost \$2.5 million to climb to her highest world ranking of four.

But the media focus is still on Sanchez Vicario's tennis-playing family.

"I'm not in the shadow of Arantxa, I am Conchita Martinez and I am number four in the world," Martinez insisted after a painful two hours against Probst.

The top-seed eventually won an error-riddled second round match in three sets.

"Of course I would love to be the number one in Spain. I am working on it, I am not working on beating Arantxa. I'm working on becoming number one in the world."

"She has a lot of attention,

but I will get more if I play good tennis like I did last year."

"We are two different players, I don't need to be recognised down the street, but the only thing I ask is that the people recognise that I am a good player."

Martinez is building a compelling case. Last year she became the first Spanish woman in the open era to reach the semifinals of Wimbledon and defeated world No. 1 Steffi Graf at Philadelphia last November.

Meanwhile Muster, the Austrian world number nine, a finalist in Sydney last year, said he would not pay to watch a match himself and the sport would be "like basketball" by the end of the century.

"In 10 years time, you'll have 2.10 metre black guys just serving," said Muster.

"I wouldn't go and watch a match with two servers playing. I think in general tennis is boring, especially indoors."

Muster, a relatively unimpressive 1.80 metres tall, was asked if he had any message for young players of similar stature looking to break into the professional ranks. "Play table tennis," he replied.

Chaos reigns in Brazilian soccer

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian soccer remained in a state of chaos Wednesday after attempts to end a breakaway league in Rio De Janeiro floundered.

With just 18 days to go before the official start of the new season, it is still unclear how many championships Rio will have, how they will be organised and which clubs will take part in which.

Three of Rio's leading clubs — Flamengo, Fluminense and

Botafogo — announced last month they would not compete in this year's Rio De Janeiro Championship, leaving Vasco Da Gama as the only major team. The rebels plan a breakaway league instead.

Attempts Tuesday night to lure them back looked set to succeed when the rebels and the other clubs agreed on a formula for the official championship.

But talks broke down over who should control the cham-

pionship. The rebels wanted an independent five-man commission to take charge. But Vasco Da Gama refused, saying the commission should merely "assist" the federation.

The rebels broke away in December when a match-rigging scandal erupted, with allegations that referees were being told to ensure certain matches ended in results which were "in the federation's interests."

They had already been

angered by what they saw as the poor organisation of last year's competition and at the time list for this year, in which Vasco Da Gama were to play their first seven games at home.

Brazil is unusual among soccer nations in that the National Championship lasts only four months. The clubs spend half the year disputing regional competitions, of which the Rio De Janeiro Championship is one of the most important.

Deehan appointed Norwich City manager

NORWICH, England (R) — Former striker John Deehan was confirmed Wednesday as Norwich City manager until at least the end of the season.

Deehan, who also played for Aston Villa and the England under-21 side, replaces Mike Walker who shocked the club by leaving them for Everton last week. Deehan was Walker's assistant.

Norwich midfielder Gary Megson was named as Deehan's assistant, making the pair, aged 36 and 34 respectively, the youngest managerial team in the English Premier League.

Deehan, pledging his commitment to Norwich's footballing traditions said: "There will be no chances at all on the field of play."

"We will still attempt to play positive, attacking football with

the emphasis very much of entertainment and with the intention of scoring as many goals as possible."

"Our aim will simply be to continue the progress which has been made over the past two seasons. I'm thrilled to have got the chance to do that. For me, this is a dream come true."

Norwich, league front-runners for most of last season, had a short but impressive first incursion into European football in the UEFA Cup this term.

They eliminated German giants Bayern Munich in the second round in November and gave Internazionale Milan a run for their money before going out in the third last month.

Norwich Chairman Robert Chace said: "The position of

John's assistant left us with something of a dilemma because Gary's contribution as a player this season has been substantial and we didn't want to do anything to diminish that."

"He has signed a new contract which will keep him here as a player for the rest of this season and all of next, during which time he'll also take over the role of player/coach."

Chace said that Deehan will be on exactly the same kind of contract as Walker — a one-year deal which should be renewed in the summer.

Southampton manager

bows out

Meanwhile, Ian Branfoot's torrid reign as Southampton

manager came to an end Tuesday when he left the struggling English Premier League club.

Southampton said in a statement that Branfoot had "resigned" his position. They added: "Ian has served the club honourably, skilfully and diligently in circumstances in which most men would have given up the task before now."

Assistant Managers Lew Chatterley and John Worrie have been put in charge of team affairs for the time being.

Branfoot, manager since June 1991, finally succumbed to the strains of a job that made him a target of fans' red

FBI probes Harding's husband over Kerrigan attack

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) The FBI is investigating allegations that figure skater Tonya Harding's husband and her bodyguard arranged last week's attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan, the Oregonian reported Wednesday.

The newspaper said in a copyright story that Harding's husband, Jeff Gilooly, acknowledged that he was one of the two men being investigated.

"That's illegal," Gilooly said late Tuesday. "I wouldn't do that. I have more faith in my wife than to bump off her competition."

The plot allegedly was designed to help Harding win the National Championship, the Oregonian said. Harding did

win and was named to the U.S. team that will compete in next month's Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

There is no indication that Harding had any involvement in the attack or knew anything about it, the newspaper reported.

The other man being investigated, Shawn Eric Eckardt, works as Harding's bodyguard. "That is absurd," Eckardt said of the allegations. "You know, I would never get involved in anything like that. That would be jeopardising my future, my career. I mean, that's not something I could do or allow."

Kerrigan, the 1992 Olympic bronze medalist, was a favourite to defend her national title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, which also served as the Olympic team trials, last week in Detroit.

She had stopped to talk to a reporter after a practice session Thursday when a man rushed at the skater, crouching to hit her just above the knee with a weapon witnesses described as a fire iron, a crowbar or a rubber pipe.

Kerrigan, 24, suffered a ser-

verely bruised knee and withdrew from the competition.

Harding, the 1991 national champion who was fourth in the 1992 Olympics, went on to skate two clean programmes and easily win the national title.

Immediately after Harding was awarded her medal, the international committee of the U.S. Figure Skating Association appointed Kerrigan to the Olympic team, bumping national runner-up Michelle Kwan to the alternate's spot.

Detroit police, and later FBI agents, questioned all skaters and coaches at the event.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMARA HIRSCH
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GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 10
♥ A K 8 2
♦ 7 4 3

WEST
♠ A K J
♥ 8 5 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 10 6 5

EAST
♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 7 9 4
♦ 10 6 4 3
♣ 8

SOUTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ 7 3
♦ 9
♣ A K Q J 9 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 5♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.
When two defenders work as one, it is beautiful to behold. We offer this deal to illustrate our point.

North-South actually avoided

three no trump, which had no play

after a spade lead, which would

surely have been the choice of either

defender. North had a difficult bid-

dling problem on the second round

and did well by bidding the fragment

containing an honor rather than no trump.

After the opening lead of the king of spades, on which East signalled with the nine, it might seem declarer can lose no more than two spade tricks. But watch what happened when West found the deadly shift to a low heart.

Declarer could not afford to duck, since that would be the setting trick. But winning with the ace of hearts removed the only side entry to dummy's diamonds, so declarer was forced to cash three rounds of diamonds, discarding two heart losers from hand.

There was still that pesky third spade to handle. When South now led a spade from the table, the defenders pounced. East rose with the queen of spades and completed declarer's discomfiture by leading the ten of diamonds. When South ruffed high, West discarded the ace of spades!

There was now no way for declarer to score an 11th trick. If South drew trumps, East would eventually collect a spade for the setting trick. If South tried to ruff a spade, West would ruff higher than dummy. Down one.

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<p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>DRAGON</p> <p>The Bruce Lee story</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>11 a.m. special show for children</p> <p>Thurs.-Fri.+Sat. and Sun.</p> <p>Ninja Dragons</p>	<p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD '1'</p> <p>Bright Fonda — in</p> <p>ASSASSIN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p>CONCORD '2'</p> <p>Beauty and the Beast</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 4:45, 6:00</p>	<p>PLAZA</p> <p>Amr Diyab, Umar Sharif and Yusra in</p> <p>Laughter, Play, Seriousness and Love</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:40, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>presents a play entitled:</p> <p>AL Ilm Nuron</p> <p>A popular political comedy</p> <p>Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalal, Hassan Al Sheer, Faeed Shomali</p> <p>in addition to other comedians</p> <p>Every night at 8:15</p> <p>Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 624455</p> <p>ANHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents</p> <p>Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)</p> <p>daily at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Theatre is closed Mondays and Tuesdays</p>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt arrests 300 suspects in two weeks

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security forces have rounded up 300 suspects in a two-week crackdown in several provinces and seized large caches of arms, security sources said Wednesday. The 35 wanted militants or escapees were among those detained in the campaign which began in Cairo, Giza, Qalyubia, Helwan and other areas. Explosives and weapons were found with many of them, the sources added. Egypt, determined to quash a rising tide of militant violence that targeted public figures and foreign tourists, has mounted constant raids and arrest campaigns since last year. More than 271 people have been killed and 668 injured in political violence which began in 1992. Egypt has hanged 29 militants for attacks on tourists and officials.

Israeli teens suspected in killing

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a crime that sent shock waves through Israel, police said Wednesday they arrested three Israeli ninth graders in the killing of a taxi driver whose death was at first blamed on Palestinians. Police found business cards in the name of "Crime Inc." in the home of one suspect along with plans to rob a bank and kill all witnesses. The cards had the names of the teenagers and their home telephone numbers. Police said investigators were led to the trio after one bragged about the killing at school the next day and showed friends the pistol allegedly used to shoot the taxi driver. Police Commissioner Rafi Peled said the teenage violence was unprecedented and was worse than politically motivated attacks that have become a familiar part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Police said three teenagers were arrested at the home of one youth in Herzliya, an affluent suburb north of Tel Aviv. Two of the youths, aged 15 and 16, were suspected of killing taxi driver Derek Roth, 33, a father of three, on Sunday night. The third teenager was detained for helping after the murder. According to an account in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth, one of the youths pulled out a pistol and shot the driver in the back a number of times. A ring and gold chain were taken but his wallet was left untouched with more than 450 shekels (\$150). Roth's body was found slumped over the steering wheel and banner headlines Monday blamed it on Palestinians. One of the youths was the son of a prominent lawyer, according to Israeli radio reports, but all three had records for theft. The youths told police their motive was robbery and that the shooting was coincidental, Israeli Radio said.

Kuwait to give Boeings as gift to Syria

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Wednesday it was going ahead with a gift of three U.S.-made airliners to Syria now that Washington has lifted a ban on the transfer. Kuwait promised to give Gulf War ally Damascus the three Boeing 727s which became redundant in a modernisation of state airline Kuwait Airways corporation's fleet. But it could not make the transfer due to restrictions on the supply of sophisticated U.S. machinery to Syria because it remains on a Washington list of countries allegedly linked to "terrorism." Washington made an exception of the Kuwaiti airliners last month when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Damascus to prepare for this week's summit between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Syria's Hafez Al Assad. "The U.S. Commerce Department has permitted KAC to give three Boeing 727 aircrafts to the Syrian Arab Airlines corporation," KAC General Manager Ahmad Al Zebini told Reuters, he said the aircraft which had already been removed from the KAC fleet were operational.

Rabbi flees to Morocco, converts to Islam

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A rabbi at the centre of a sex scandal has run off to Morocco and converted to Islam, Yedioth Aharanot newspaper reported Wednesday. It said Rabbi Shimon Dado, who enticed schoolgirls by giving away exam results, was working in a mosque in his native Morocco. The rabbinical court in the southern Israeli town of Beersheba is to decide whether to grant a divorce to his wife Myriam. Normally under Jewish law, the husband must agree.

Major to appear at 'Iraqgate' inquiry

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major is to appear next Monday before an inquiry investigating British arms sales to Iraq, officials said Wednesday. The inquiry is investigating whether the British government knowingly broke its own regulations on arms sales to Iraq. It was set up in November 1992 after the collapse of the trial of British directors of the Iraqi-owned Matrix Churchill engineering firm. Former minister Alan Clark had said in court that government departments encouraged sales of defence equipment to Iraq before the Gulf war. Mr. Major follows his predecessor Margaret Thatcher and a string of senior ministers who have been grilled by Lord Justice Scott over what has been dubbed "Iraqgate."

Expelled ambassador of Britain leaves Khartoum

KHARTOUM (Agencies) Britain's ambassador to Sudan, Peter Streats, left Khartoum early Wednesday, one day before the government's deadline for his expulsion. British diplomats said.

They said Mr. Streats left at 3 a.m. after holding a farewell reception at his residence attended by a number of Sudanese, including former civilian Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who was ousted by the present government.

Sudan issued its expulsion order on Dec. 30, giving Mr. Streats 14 days to leave. His forced departure followed a row over a visit to rebel-held southern Sudan by Archbishop of Canterbury Peter Carey who declined to visit the capital.

Britain retaliated by giving the Sudanese ambassador to London, Ali Osman Yassin, two weeks to leave after Khartoum refused to reconsider its decision to expel Streats.

Sudan accused Mr. Streats of constant attacks on the government of Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

He was for example accused of not attending official national Sudanese days such as June 30, the day in 1959 when Gen. Bashir seized power from Mr. Mahdi, and of visiting areas held by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) without government consent.

Mr. Streats was also held responsible for Carey's failure to visit Khartoum.

Despite the expulsions Khartoum and London appear to be eager to leave the episode.

Official defects to Britain

The former deputy speaker of the Sudan parliament said Wednesday he was defecting to Britain because he disagrees with the Sudanese government's civil war policy.

Aldo Ajo Deng told British radio he had tried to stop the government from waging war against the Christians in the south.

"Unfortunately all my efforts have not worked because the government has taken a programme of militarisation that is solving the problem of southern Sudan by war," Deng said, adding that he is a Christian.

The Home Office, which is responsible for immigration issues, refused to confirm that Mr. Deng was seeking asylum. A spokesman said they do not comment on individual cases.

Mr. Deng told the BBC he could not speak out in Sudan because he feared for his safety.

Brown visit 'signal of U.S. commitment'

Secretary to seek business 'matchmaking', end to boycott of Israel

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown on Wednesday described his visit to the Middle East next week as the best indication yet of Washington's commitment to regional economic development as part of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Brown, who is due in Amman on Monday after visiting Saudi Arabia, noted that he would be accompanied by representatives of American businessmen and said one of the objectives of his trip was to identify areas where the U.S. private sector could be encouraged to interact with its counterparts in the countries of the region.

Parallel to that goal, Mr. Brown said, he would also be "very aggressively" pursuing the U.S. quest to have the Arab boycott of Israel lifted. "I have raised (this issue) with every meeting I had" with the concerned governments, he said, noting that he was scheduled to meet with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministers in Riyadh on Sunday.

"The U.S. is going to continue to push to eliminate all boycotts and I am going to press it with all the leaders with whom I meet, as I have done

before, and as President Clinton has done," he said.

Answering questions from businessmen and journalists from Amman, Cairo, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in a satellite interview from Washington, Mr. Brown declined to be specific on most issues, saying that all options were under consideration during his visit.

The American official agreed that the continuing de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba as part of the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq was contrary to the new-found spirit of free international trade without any barriers.

But he did not indicate when Washington, through its influence in the U.N. Security Council, would be moving to address Jordanian grievances over the high cost the Kingdom's importers and exporters have to pay for shipping to and from Aqaba as a result of the costly delays posed by the inspection.

Mr. Brown did promise, however, that he would study a report prepared by Jordanian businessmen and handed over to a U.S. fact-finding mission in September.

He appeared to suggest that the sanctions on Iraq were somehow directly linked to the overall Middle East peace process.

by suggesting that once a regional peace settlement is achieved the Jordanian concerns could be addressed.

"Vestiges of past tension have to be removed," he said. "We hope to move as quickly as possible to that date."

The commerce secretary also agreed that there had to be a better "equilibrium" in trade between the U.S. and Jordan, but did not spell out whether the administration was planning specific action wherever it could help increase American imports from Jordan.

According to Dr. Thabet Al Taher, a former minister and a current member of the Jordan Businessmen's Association (JBA) who was one of Wednesday's questioners, Jordanian imports from the U.S. totalled \$301 million in the first 10 months of 1993, while American imports of Jordanian products remained under \$4 million.

Mr. Brown acknowledged that one of his objectives during the visit was to increase U.S. exports to the region. "I also understand that a commercial relationship is a two-way street... there has to be an equilibrium... and that is what we are trying to create."

Mr. Brown said Washington was "committed to the economic development" of the Middle East so that "people can feel peace has brought changes" to their standards of living.

His visit to the Middle East at "this crucial" point in time in the peace process, Mr. Brown said, is intended to be a signal of this commitment.

"I think that is why this mission is so important," he added. "With the coming of peace people's expectations are high in all the countries involved in the region. People believe that their lives are going to change..."

According to Mr. Brown, economic development and cooperation in the region meant increased job opportunities as one of the most tangible results of the peace process for the ordinary citizen.

The U.S. official said he and the businessmen accompanying him were looking forward to "creative kinds of proposals" from their interlocutors in the region.

He described the level of American investment in the Middle East as very low and attributed it to a sense of lack of stability and security and said Washington wanted to find out "whether we can increase the comfort level... the confidence level" of businessmen in investing in the region.

"We are going to establish direct contacts between American businessmen and Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli and Saudi businessmen," he said.

In the context of the American role in Palestinian economic development, Mr. Brown specifically referred to a group of Jewish American and Arab American businessmen under the umbrella of a new group, "Builders for Peace," and said Washington would be closely coordinating with the group in terms of encouraging American businesses to invest.

"Builders for Peace" was set up under a Washington-encouraged initiative undertaken by former senator James Abouir and former congressman Mel Devine. It groups many Arab-American as well as Jewish-American businessmen who have shown keen interest in investing in the occupied territories.

Infrastructure for the Palestinians in the occupied territories is an area where immediate opportunities exist for potential investors, he said.

"There is very little on that agenda (Palestinian economic development) that we are not talking about now," Mr. Brown told a Palestinian questioner from Jerusalem.

"The United States has to put a stake in the ground," he said.

Clinton offers NATO aid if E. Europe is attacked

PRAGUE (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton Wednesday gave an implicit promise to the new democracies of Eastern Europe that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would come to their defence if they were attacked.

Mr. Clinton was speaking at a joint news conference with the leaders of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary after trying to dispel lingering doubts over his Partnership for Peace plan for Eastern Europe.

The partnership plan, endorsed by a summit meeting of the 15-member NATO in Brussels, provides for closer military cooperation between NATO and Eastern European countries without giving them concrete security guarantees.

But Mr. Clinton appeared to go a step further than the text of the partnership programme when a questioner asked whether it was conceivable, given the lessons of World War

II, that NATO would fail to come to the help of an Eastern European country if it were invaded or subject to military aggression.

"I think it is doubtful (that there would be no help)," Mr. Clinton replied. "I think your reading of our reading of history is right."

But Mr. Clinton added that he did not believe any of the former satellites of Moscow in the now defunct Warsaw Pact faced the threat of imminent attack.

"Of course, there are always concerns that in the future the darker past might be recreated, that there could be... expansionism again."

After separate talks with the four leaders and a joint working lunch with all of them, Mr. Clinton stressed that the security of all four countries was "important to the security of the United States."

In a statement, Mr. Clinton said the NATO membership

issue was no longer a matter of whether they would join "but of when and how."

He gave no indication of a possible date but the Visegrad leaders made it plain they wanted it sooner rather than later to come under the NATO security umbrella.

Poland overcame its initial reservations towards the plan, President Lech Walesa telling Mr. Clinton that Warsaw "would not block the American initiative," a member of the Polish delegation said.

The leaders of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia had also expressed disappointment at not gaining admission to NATO, stressing that they viewed the "Partnership for Peace" plan as a prelude to full NATO membership at a later date.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, writing an opinion piece published Wednesday in the French

newspaper Le Figaro, stated that Russia has no territorial claims against its neighbours.

"Russia has no territorial claims vis-a-vis any state in the world, not against no state in central or Eastern Europe," he wrote. Russian military doctrine is clearly geared only towards defence and peacekeeping operations, he added.

Before turning to diplomacy, Mr. Clinton visited Prague's Jewish cemetery, where 12,000 gravestones are crowded on a small plot because of anti-Semitic medieval restrictions on how much land Jews could acquire.

Mr. Clinton also stopped at the Pinkas synagogue, now a museum where the names of 77,297 Czech Jews killed by the Germans in World War II are being inscribed again on a wall. The names had been plastered over in a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

Arafat 'moving towards reform'

PARIS (AFP) — Yasser Arafat is pressing on with democratisation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and is taking account of demands for greater delegation of authority ahead of autonomy for Jericho and Gaza, a PLO official said here Wednesday.

PLO Representative in France Leila Shahid said Mr. Arafat was breaking out of his "personalised style" and taking account of demands for democracy and greater accountability in nominations being made in the run-up to autonomy.

"I think that surely in the coming months all these requests for more delegation of authority to others will have to be taken into consideration," Ms. Shahid told members of the Anglo-American Press Association here.

She said this was already evident in nominations to the Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Agency (PEDRA) established to channel funds to the autonomous areas when negotiations with the Israelis on autonomy have been completed.

Donor countries have pledged \$2 billion in aid over the next five years, \$580 million of it this year, to Jericho and Gaza, and accountability and openness were essential to avert the threat of corruption, Ms. Shahid said.

She added that planned elections would bring "major changes to the PLO's nature that will ultimately lead to a full parliament" taking over from the Palestinian national council.

Ms. Shahid said the democratic debate was taking place worldwide through petitions or in the Arab press because for the moment the PLO had no institutions and no capital. It was vital to "strengthen the beginning of this process of democratisation," she said.

She said PEDRA, whose task will be to fund basic infrastructure, would be able to start functioning on the ground by next month.

A Palestinian delegation led by Haidar Abdul Shafi went to PLO headquarters in Tunis on Jan. 2 to press for greater democracy, but said they failed in their mission. Mr. Arafat had agreed to meet the delegation after receiving petitions demanding change.

Ms. Shahid said that economic autonomy talks being held here between Israel and the PLO would resume to Jan. 18 and would be boosted by last week's monetary accord between the PLO and Jordan.

The PLO representative said she hoped U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting in Geneva next Sunday with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad would lead to an early resumption of bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.

Iran says it is ready for talks with UAE

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Wednesday it was ready to resume talks with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over a territorial dispute and would welcome visits by UAE officials.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Nakhmoud Mohammadi went on to criticise the UAE government, which, he said, "on the one hand emphasises on mutual talks to settle misunderstandings between the two countries but on the other hand does not take any practical step in this connection."

The dispute is over three Gulf islands that Iran has held for more than 20 years but the UAE insists are part of its territory.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mr. Mohammadi as saying that a statement issued in Damascus this week following talks between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Egypt and Syria repeated the "baseless claims by the UAE over the islands."

Iran says the islands of Abu

Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tams are Iranian and rejects UAE sovereignty claims.

The UAE in September cancelled a minister's visit to Tehran because Iran would not agree to place the islands issue specifically on the agenda of his talks. It says negotiations would otherwise be pointless.

The Damascus statement said the islands belonged to the UAE and urged Iran to respond to calls by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan for dialogue to solve the dispute "by peaceful means in line with international laws and conventions and the principles of good neighbourliness and mutual respect between countries."

Mr. Mohammadi said Iran "paid attention to that part of the statement of the Damascus meeting which mentions friendly neighbourliness and elimination of disputes through peaceful talks and declare our readiness to continue talks and receive officials from the UAE."

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Mr. Ali Mahdi was not expected to attend the talks, to be held at a north Mogadishu hotel and planned to last 15 days.

General Aideed was still in Nairobi on Wednesday where he has reportedly had trouble opening reconciliation talks with his opponents of the 12-faction Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) led by Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Alliance spokesmen in Nairobi this week expressed fears that the clan-based factional fighting which sparked Somalia's civil war would be

Israeli general, two others killed in crash

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Nehemiah Tamari, the commander of Israeli forces on the occupied West Bank, was killed along with three other officers Wednesday when an army helicopter crashed while landing in bad weather.

The army said the crash, which occurred at 2 a.m., was not the result of an attack.

"It appears it was an accident due to bad weather and poor visibility at the landing site," Lieutenant-Colonel Yehuda Weinraub, an army spokesman, said.

The air force appointed a special investigation to determine the exact cause.

The helicopter was trying to land at the central command headquarters located in the northern edge of Jerusalem.

General Tamari was believed to be the highest ranking officer to die in the line of duty in the occupied territory.

He was on his way back from investigating a suspected infiltration along the frontier, which turned out to be a false alarm, a military official said.

Israel Radio reported that there was an infiltration at the site where Gen. Tamari visited, near Kibbutz Hamadya, about 80 kilometres north of Jerusalem. But the "infiltrator," caught Wednesday morning at the Kibbutz fish ponds, was unarmed and in civilian dress, the report added.

Israeli reporters said the helicopter apparently struck an antenna or a wire. It plummeted to the ground and burst into flames. Witnesses saw parts of the helicopter's tail and pieces of metal at the site.

Gen. Tamari had served in the army for 28 years, fighting in the wars of 1967 and 1973 and in Lebanon invasion.

He had been central commander since March but his death was not expected to have an immediate effect on Israeli operations in the West Bank as the command has largely completed its troop withdrawal plans.

He had been upbeat about the pullout from Jericho in the West Bank agreed in the Israel-Palestinian accord in September.

Somali clans to open peace talks

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's warring clans will open peace talks Thursday in the north Mogadishu stronghold of self-styled Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammadi, a spokeswoman for the meeting said.

Zahra Nur said the talks, chaired by a prominent Muslim leader, the imam of Hirab, would include members of Mr. Ali Mahdi's Abgal clan and representatives of the Habt Gedir clan of his enemy factional leader Mohammad Farah Aideed.

"This is a traditional Somali meeting, without the United Nations or anyone except Somalis," Ms. Zahra told reporters.

"Somali religious leaders and clan elders will lead the

discussions. It will show that we Somalis are capable of solving our own problems in our own way," she said. "The U.N. has failed to find a political solution."

Mr. Ali Mahdi was not expected to attend the talks, to be held at a north Mogadishu hotel and planned to last 15 days.

General Aideed was still in Nairobi on Wednesday where he has reportedly had trouble opening reconciliation talks with his opponents of the 12-faction Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) led by Mr. Ali Mahdi.

Alliance spokesmen in Nairobi this week expressed fears that the clan-based factional fighting which sparked Somalia's civil war would be

ignited after U.S. forces leave in March.

They urged the Security Council to heed similar warnings by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and leave peacekeepers in Somalia after the Americans go.

Months of heavy fighting between Mr. Ali Mahdi's forces and those of Gen. Aideed's reduced much of central Mogadishu to rubble before the first U.S. forces landed in December 1992.

The two warlords agreed with other factional leaders at U.N.-brokered talks in March to form a transitional national council to govern Somalia for two years until elections.

But the process was halted by Gen. Aideed's bloody conflict with the United Nations

between June and October. Further peace talks in Addis Ababa last month collapsed without agreement.

Dr. Ghali has warned that the United Nations might have to drastically scale down its presence in Somalia if new troops and finances were not made available.

Dr. Ghali was speaking in an interview at his New York home with the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad.

Dr. Ghali said on Monday that he had asked some 40 countries to provide peacekeepers to Somalia to replace withdrawing U.S. and European troops and vowed to do his best to ensure a continued U.N. presence.

COLUMN

Clinton wins over Czechs with sax classics

PRAGUE (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton showed off his saxophone skills Tuesday in Prague, playing two Gershwin songs in a jazz bar to the rapturous applause of his Czech hosts.

Mr. Clinton and his Czech counterpart Vaclav Havel earlier strolled together through the Baroque streets of Prague after stopping on the Charles Bridge to admire the statues that line it. Followed by a large crowd of journalists and security agents, the two leaders stopped on the bridge for Mr. Clinton to give interviews on his partnership for peace programme that he had just presented to his Czech hosts. They later wandered through the winding lanes of the old city before stopping at the Golden Tiger Cabaret, where Mr. Clinton met with 30 invited guests including Czech writer Bohumil Hrabal to enjoy a meal of a typical Czech meat and potato dish. The two leaders then moved on to the Reduta Jazz Club, a favourite haunt of anti-Communist dissidents before 1989, to meet Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus and his wife. Near the elth, Mr. Clinton laid a wreath of white lilies by a plaque marking the "velvet Revolution" of Nov. 17, 1989 that ended Communist rule in the then Czechoslovakia. While waiting for the jazz performance to begin, Mr. Clinton took the opportunity to play the Gershwin classics My Funny Valentine and Summertime.

Deng 'angered' by Mao celebrations

HONG KONG (AFP) — Law celebrations in China for the 10th anniversary of Chairman Mao Zedong's birth have enraged its paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, a Hong Kong newspaper said. Quoting sources in Shanghai, the South China Morning Post said the 89-year-old Patriarch believed the Dec. 26 centenary had been "overplayed."

"Who is behind the festivities?" Mr. Deng demanded to know at a meeting with Shanghai officials, the English-language daily said, he reportedly blamed the scope of the nation-wide celebrations on "underground General Secretary" Deng Liqun, an influential former propaganda chief and an ageing leader of the Communist Party's leftist faction. Deng Xiaoping was purged from his senior party posts by Mao at the start of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, and spent most of the following 10 years as a tractor mechanic in the countryside. He emerged after Mao's death in September 1976 to become paramount leader. Putting China on a new path of market-oriented economic reforms despite opposition from old-time revolutionaries. In the past year Deng has waged his own propaganda campaign, including the publication of his most recent important speeches and a biography — to ensure his returns endure past his death, political observers say.

Indian couple refused chance of white baby

LONDON (R) — A British hospital has refused a request from an Indian couple for a white woman's eggs, a doctor said Tuesday. Explaining the decision, top embryologist Simon Fishel said, "We felt being brought up in an Indian community with Indian parents would make a white child feel very isolated and different."

"I am all for mixing and matching as I believe colour is only skin deep," he told reporters. "But we decided against going ahead in this case because we felt that in the long run the welfare of the child would possibly be affected."

The request was made in the nature clinic in the central English city of Nottingham when no Indian donor eggs were available. Rapid medical advances in the treatment of infertile women have sparked a major ethical debate in Britain. Physicians, churchmen and doctors have expressed concern about the ethics of so-called "white mixing" after a 59-year-old British woman gave birth to twins on Christmas Day following implantation with fertilised eggs. Scottish researchers revealed they were close to calling eggs from aborted female fetuses but voluntarily stopped the research after the government expressed concern.

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